

2 flee with helicopter from Sinai

LARNACA, Cyprus (R) — Two West Germans flew a helicopter from a Sinai oilfield to Cyprus Wednesday, claiming they were acting under orders from their company. "There are conflicting stories but the two Germans claim they got instructions from their company to seize the helicopter and fly it to Germany before Egypt confiscated it in a dispute," a Cypriot official told Reuters. Rudolf Rheinhardt Dressler, a pilot, and Olaf Jens Schleip, an engineer, took an Egyptian pilot with them from a landing site at the Abu Redels Oilfields in Sinai but dropped him off safely before heading for Cyprus, the official said. Air traffic sources said Dressler called Larnaca and said he was bringing in a helicopter from a private German yacht 50 miles out in the Mediterranean. Cypriot officials said they had given orders that the helicopter was not to leave without Foreign Ministry permission.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Saudi aide meets with Ryzhkov

MOSCOW (R) — Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, who is in Moscow to seek support for OPEC moves to raise oil prices, had an unscheduled meeting Wednesday with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, diplomatic sources said. TASS news agency, reporting the meeting with Mr. Ryzhkov, said the Saudi minister expressed the hope that Moscow would show a "favourable attitude" to OPEC's price-bolstering moves. Mr. Ryzhkov replied that the Soviet Union "approves of OPEC's constructive efforts and takes them into consideration," TASS said. But the agency gave no indication of what, if any, concrete steps the two ministers might have agreed upon. Mr. Nazer, the first Saudi oil minister to visit Moscow, arrived on Monday hoping to obtain Soviet agreement to cooperate with recent Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) moves at a meeting in Geneva last month to shore up oil prices.

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Regent visits Public Security Department

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the Regent, Wednesday visited the Public Security Department (PSD) where he was received by the PSD Director Lt. Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali and his assistants.

Masri leaves for Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri left Amman Wednesday for Kuwait to attend the Islamic foreign ministers meeting on Monday. The meeting prepares for the convening of the fifth Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit due to be held on Jan. 26 in Kuwait.

U.S. fleet holds major exercise

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Twenty-nine warships, including the aircraft carriers USS Kennedy and Nimitz, are holding 60 fleet exercises in the central Mediterranean, a U.S. navy spokesman said Wednesday. The manoeuvres, dubbed "National Week," have been underway since Monday and will last through Sunday, Lt. Dave Morris said. The spokesman said the exercises involve 180 aircraft, 14,000 navy personnel and 1,800 marines.

Thatcher 5 points ahead in poll

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party has chalked up its sixth consecutive public opinion poll lead as British politicians gear up for what they expect to be a general election year. The poll, conducted by National Opinion Polls (NOP) and published in Wednesday's London Evening Standard newspaper, shows Mrs. Thatcher's party rated at 42 per cent, with the opposition Labour Party at 37 per cent and the Liberal-Socialist Democratic Party-centred Alliance trailing with 19 per cent.

Austrian coalition sworn in

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — President Kurt Waldheim swore in Austria's 19th postwar government Wednesday, a coalition of Socialists and their traditional rivals, the conservative People's Party. The two parties ended negotiations this week. After Nov. 23 general elections, neither emerged strong enough to govern alone. First to take the oath was Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, a Socialist who led a caretaker government during the coalition talks. Vranitzky also headed a Socialist-Freedom Party government before the elections.

Peres in London

LONDON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres flew into London Wednesday on the first leg of a week-long European tour during which he will discuss plans for economic aid to further the Middle East peace process.

Iraqi president renews call for peace in Gulf

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein issued a new call for an end to the war with Iran on the 13th day of an Iranian offensive near Iraq's second city of Basra.

"The way for an honest and secure life, the way for the victory of Islam... is the way of peace," he said in an open letter to the Iranian people read over Baghdad Radio.

Iraq says it has inflicted heavy casualties in repelling the Iranian offensive and is in command of the situation on the southern front.

Mr. Hussein said it was the duty of Iraqis to question the fate of a quarter of a million men he said Tehran's leaders had sent to the southern and central fronts for the latest battles in the 6½-year-old conflict.

The president regularly addresses open letters to Iraq after Tehran launches major drives against Iraqi territory.

The latest plea for peace precedes a summit meeting of Islamic leaders due to open in Kuwait on Monday.

The Iran-Iraq war is expected to be a major topic, but Iran has already refused to attend and rejected in advance any resolutions passed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.

Mr. Hussein repeated Iraq's conditions for peace: An unconditional and comprehensive withdrawal of forces of both sides to international borders; a full exchange of war prisoners; and a peace treaty stipulating non-interference in the internal affairs of either side.

In his address, he accused Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of not being a true Muslim and of seeking to impose a form of heresy on Iraqis.

Iraq earlier reported more air raids on Iranian cities in retaliation for artillery bombardments of Iraqi centres in which more than 40 civilians were reported killed and nearly 200 wounded.

A Baghdad High Command communiqué said Iranian troops south of Fish Lake, a man-made water barrier 10 kilometres east of Basra, launched three more unsuccessful attacks Tuesday night, taking heavy casualties.

It also reported Iraqi air attacks on the Iranian towns of Hamadan, Dezful, Esfahan, Mahabad, Pol-e Dokhtar and Kermanshah (Bakhtar) and double raids on Qom and Isfahan.

Sixteen planes took part in the Kermanshah raid, it said.

Planes also attacked pumping stations in two Iranian oilfields. Flares flew a total of 370 sorties Wednesday and helicopter gunships flew 196 combat missions to knock out gun emplacements, tanks and other military vehicles, the communiqué said.

It added that six people had been killed and 15 wounded by Iranian shelling of Basra over the previous 24 hours.

Earlier Wednesday, a military

announcement said 36 civilians were killed and 98 wounded when Iranian heavy artillery shelled the northern town of Sulaymaniyah, a Kurdish centre with a population of 100,000 some 48 kilometres from the border.

A war communiqué Tuesday night said the southern port city of Basra and three smaller centres were also shelled Tuesday. Seven civilians were killed and 93 wounded, it added.

Both sides have reported heavy fighting on the southern front. Iraq has said its forces have inflicted heavy losses in repelling Iranian attacks on the southern front east and south east of Basra.

"Our forces are imposing their full control over the situation," Tuesday night's communiqué said.

The Iraqi army newspaper Al Qadisiya, meanwhile, carried a decree Wednesday from the ruling Revolutionary Command Council calling for volunteers between the ages of 14 and 25 years to join the army.

The decree also called on university graduates and post-graduates under the age of 35 to sign up as officers. The compulsory age for military service is 18.

Diplomats estimate that more than one million men are serving in the armed forces, with another 800,000 in the para-military Popular Army.

Iran's National News Agency IRNA claimed Iranian troops captured the township of Du'ayji, some 15 kilometres east of Basra, after heavy overnight fighting.

Gulf-based diplomats said the battles near Basra could prove

critical in the 6½-year-old war. They said the fighting, Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities and Iranian missile strikes on Baghdad had produced a dangerous escalation of the conflict.

The Iranian news agency claimed Iraqi planes dropped bombs outside Esfahan and Qom Wednesday and broke the sound barrier over Kashan.

The agency said Revolutionary Guards started shelling the Iraqi garrison at Darhish near Al Amarah, 160 kilometres north of Basra in retaliation for Iraqi air raids Tuesday.

One raid on the western city of Khorramabad was reported to have left 100 people dead and 200 wounded.

More than 1,300 Iranian civilians have been killed and over 2,700 injured in Iraqi air strikes since the "war of the cities" broke out, coinciding with the Jan. 9 launch of the Karbala-5 offensive.

Diplomatic and military analysts in the Gulf, meanwhile, believe Iran hopes to capitalise on reported gains near Basra for an even bigger assault on southern Iraq.

They suggest Tehran's strategy is to tie Iraqi troops down in the strong Basra perimeter defences to enable Iranian forces to break out and cut the port's road links with Baghdad to the north and Kuwait to the south.

Such a move would cut vital supply lines and place heavy pressure on the important Rumaila oilfield some 48 kilometres south west of Basra. Crude oil from the field is piped through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea.

U.S. voices concern over Gulf fighting

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Wednesday expressed fresh concern that the Gulf war could undermine the stability of the whole region.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters that Iraqi forces Tuesday successfully thwarted Iranian attempts to break out of territory gained in their drive on the southern Iraqi port of Basra earlier this month.

She said "Some Iranian infantry" south of the Fish Lake area, some nine miles from Basra, where the breakout attempts were made, had succeeded in moving west slightly towards the city of some one million people.

Oakley said she was unable to confirm Iranian claims that its forces Wednesday captured Du'ayji, which it described as a heavily defended town about 15 kilometres east of Basra.

"The Iranians, however, are still outside the main Iraqi front lines and we do not believe that Basra is in imminent danger of falling," she said.

Tehran claimed its renewed offensive was not aimed at capturing Basra, from which thousands of people have fled under heavy shelling.

"Nevertheless, we are disturbed at the continuing fighting in the area," Oakley said.

"The people of Iran and Iraq have suffered the effects of this conflict much too long and the war also poses a real danger for the stability of the entire region," she added.

Oakley repeated U.S. appeals to Tehran to negotiate a settlement of the war.

"We deplore Iran's occupation of Iraqi territory and re-emphasise our view that this war must be ended on the basis of a negotiated or mediated settlement that preserves the territorial integrity and sovereignty of both countries," she said.

Iraq has repeatedly announced its willingness to negotiate an end to the war, but Tehran has refused to budge from its demands for massive reparations and the removal of Iraqi government.

Assad to attend Islamic summit

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad will lead the Syrian delegation to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit due to open on Monday in Kuwait, official sources said Wednesday.

Mr. Assad's decision surprised diplomats and political analysts who had been almost certain he would not take part in the three-day meeting.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily newspaper Al Qabas published Wednesday, Mr. Assad said he had not originally meant to attend, but changed his mind after receiving a message from Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Diplomats said Mr. Assad's change of heart was a coup for Kuwait, which wants the largest possible participation at the summit.

Iran, which Syria backs in its war with Iraq, has said it will boycott the OIC gathering because of Kuwait's support for Baghdad in the 6½-year-old conflict. It is not clear if Iran's other Arab ally, Libya, will attend.

Mr. Assad and Libyan number two Abdul Salam Jalloud met here Wednesday and the summit was believed to have been a major topic.

Maj. Jalloud has been in Damascus for two months taking part in mediation efforts to end the "camps war" in Lebanon between Palestinians and the Muslim Shi'ite Amal militia.

Mr. Assad is also expected to discuss the meeting with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who Arab diplomatic sources said he did visit Damascus Thursday.

In Kuwait, delegates said Syria had submitted eight items for the agenda at a pre-conference meeting, including what Damascus regards as the "illegality" of Egypt's OIC membership.

Syria insists that Egypt should scrap the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords and its 1979 peace treaty with Israel before regaining its seat at Arab and OIC meetings.

Other items on Syria's proposed agenda included the visit of ex-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres to Morocco last August, the

"American-British-Israeli attack against some Arab states" — apparently referring to charges of Syrian and Libyan involvement in terrorism — and the definition of terrorism itself.

In Kuwait the OIC committee grappled Wednesday with the agenda for next week's summit meeting which delegates said would be dominated by the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war.

Some non-Arab delegates expressed fears that contentious Middle East issues could distract the summit from matters of broader concern to all Muslims.

A draft agenda obtained by Reuters and discussed put the Palestine issue, the status of Jerusalem and the war as the top three priorities, in that order.

Delegates said discussions opened with an attack on Egypt by Syrian delegate Ahmad Al Masry, who said Cairo's OIC membership was illegal because of its relations with Israel.

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majid Al Shaheen, who chaired Wednesday's meeting, told reporters the discussions took place in a "constructive and cooperative spirit."

The meeting was screening 59 proposed agenda items and preparing recommendations for a gathering of foreign ministers of the 46-member OIC Thursday.

Delegates at Wednesday's session said items approved included a Kuwaiti initiative on terrorism, a Turkish proposal on the Muslim minority in Bulgaria, last April's O.I.C. bombing raid on Libya, Libyan intervention in Chad and the Lebanese crisis.

But one non-Arab delegate said: "There is a strong trend among several countries asking that controversial bilateral or regional items not be allowed to dominate the summit."

Egypt has proposed that the summit discuss "Syrian violations of the principles of Islamic solidarity."

Also on the draft agenda are items of Afghanistan, South Africa, famine in Africa and Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

Waite goes out of sight in pursuit of hostages

BEIRUT (R) — British church envoy Terry Waite, taken to meet foreign hostages, was still absent from his hotel late Wednesday more than 24 hours after he was spirited away.

"Waite is going to be late because he has been taken to see the hostages," Jihad Zuheir, a senior official at the office of Druze leader Walid Junblatt, told Reuters.

T. mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia is guarding Mr. Waite, who left his seafaring hotel in predominantly Muslim west Beirut at 1700 GMT Tuesday night.

Observers said this was his longest disappearance from public view since he arrived in Beirut nine days ago.

Meanwhile a second West German was reported missing in west Beirut Wednesday amid indications that he had been

kidnapped.

Alfred Schmidt, an electrical engineer with Siemens company, was last seen being escorted from his hotel Tuesday night wearing only pyjamas and a leather jacket, a Siemens spokesman in Germany said.

West German Ambassador Antonius Eitel told the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia that Mr. Schmidt had been abducted, Amal Foreign Relations Department head Hassan Youssef told Reuters.

Mr. Eitel met Sunni Muslim Prime Minister Rashid Karami to discuss the kidnappings, state-owned Beirut Radio said.

Rudolf Cordes, a representative of Hoechst chemical company, was abducted on Saturday.

A guard at West Germany's consulate in Christian east Beirut said the embassy subsequently urged all West Germans including Mr. Schmidt, to leave the western half of the city.

Irish parliament formally dissolved

DUBLIN (R) — Irish President Patrick Hillery Wednesday formally dissolved parliament, paving the way for a four-week election campaign that will be dominated by a crisis in the republic's economy.

Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, trailing opposition Fianna Fail leader Charles Haughey in opinion polls, went to the president's Phoenix Park residence following the collapse of his coalition government Tuesday over draconian spending cuts.

Four labour ministers walked out in ideological protest over proposed social welfare and health cuts, prompting Fine Gael Party leader Fitzgerald to call an election for Feb. 17.

Mr. Fitzgerald, eager to underline the need for belt-tightening measures, promptly slapped new taxes on

cigarettes and petrol and presented budget proposals to freeze public sector pay, cut foreign aid, increase medical charges and close Irish embassies.

Ireland, a country of 3.5 million people, has a soaring national debt, widening budget deficit, crippling income taxes of up to 58 per cent and one of the highest unemployment rates in the European Community — 19.3 per cent.

Mr. Fitzgerald's greatest success has been negotiating an historic Anglo-Irish accord that gave Dublin a consultative voice in the running of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Mr. Haughey, a hard-nosed Republican, at first opposed the accord but has since softened his stance. Both he and Mr. Fitzgerald say they do not want to make an election issue of the volatile

Hawke arrives in Jordan on Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab-Israeli conflict and efforts towards reaching a peaceful settlement in the Middle East are expected to figure high during talks this week between the Jordanian officials and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, an Australian embassy official said here Wednesday.

The official said that Mr. Hawke, who is expected to arrive in Amman Friday, was planning to obtain first-hand information about the Middle East problem and to keep abreast with efforts aimed at bringing about peace in the region.

The Australian premier has earlier been quoted as cautiously expressing willingness to assume a mediator's role in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Hawke is due to meet His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials during his three-day visit to Jordan — the first leg of a three-nation swing which will also take him to Egypt and Israel.

According to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, Mr. Hawke's talks with the Jordanian officials will also cover the Jordanian-Australian trade and economic relations and best means to further enhance them.

According to the official, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries is in the region of JD 7 million per annum. The balance of trade is favourable to Australia which exports to the Kingdom 50,000 tonnes of wheat annually.

Jordan also imports Australian steel while limited consignments of Jordanian rock phosphates, potash and fertilisers have been exported to Australia in the past.

Although the volume of trade between the two countries is currently within limited proportions, both Jordan and Australia have the potential of increasing their trade transactions in the foreseeable future, the Australian official said.

Australia currently imports approximately two million tonnes of rock phosphates annually from South Pacific countries and potash from Canada. "However, Australia is contemplating the possibility of importing potash and phosphates from Jordan if both sides reached acceptable terms," the official said.

"In the long run Jordan may become the main supplier of phosphates to Australia after ore reserves of this material have expired in the Pacific countries," he added.

Accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Hazel Hawke, a 22-member entourage and an Australian press delegation, Mr. Hawke is expected to tour historic sites in Jordan during his visit to the Kingdom.

Mr. Hawke has been in Jordan twice in his personal capacity but this is his first visit to Jordan as prime minister.

His Majesty King Hussein visited Australia in 1976.

Mr. Hawke is expected to fly to Israel via Cyprus on Sunday.

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Reagan to meet Iran scandal panel Monday

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan will discuss what he knows about the Iran arms scandal with a special investigating panel next Monday, the White House said Wednesday.

Spokesman Larry Speakes also said the panel, appointed by Reagan and headed by former Sen. John Tower, would continue its work beyond its scheduled end-of-the-month deadline and conclude its investigation by Feb. 19.

Mr. Reagan, entering his seventh year in office Wednesday, has made no public statement for several weeks on the scandal over secret arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

The White House has said it has no plans to make public Mr. Reagan's statements to the Tower panel. It has also said repeatedly that it wants all the facts out in the open.

A number of congressional

committees are looking into the scandal and the damage it has caused to U.S. foreign policy.

Secretary of State George Shultz, who maintains that he was not informed of key decisions in the sale of arms to Iran, directly by the United States and through Israel, testified on the foreign policy aspects to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Wednesday.

The committee voted to close the session to reporters and the public. Mr. Shultz refused to answer reporters' questions as he entered the hearing room.

Committee Chairman Dante Fascell, an opposition Democrat, said Wednesday's hearing was a follow-up to an open session with Mr. Shultz in December and was not intended to pre-empt a forthcoming investigation by a special house panel created last month to probe the Iran affair.

The White House has acknowledged that Mr. Reagan

met top aides and the former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. David Durenberger, to discuss the Iran affair.

The intelligence committee has probed the scandal but has voted not to make public the results of its investigation.

Mr. Speakes said Sen. Durenberger requested the meeting with the president and asserted that it was not uncommon for a congressional committee to tell the president what was in a report being prepared.

Mr. Speakes quoted White House counsel Peter Wallison as saying Sen. Durenberger did not relate specific details of others' testimony to the intelligence panel.

A major issue in the scandal is how much Mr. Reagan knew of the covert operations by his National Security Council (NSC), which ran the Iran arms sales.

McFarlane says he got written instructions on Iran arms deal

Bush confirms death of Buckley in Beirut

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert McFarlane, the former White House aide who flew in secrecy to Iran on an ill-fated mission to free American hostages, says he got written instructions approved by President Ronald Reagan for the pre-arranged deal.

But Mr. McFarlane said he never spoke to the president or received any direct orders from him on the arrangement, in which he said his chief contact was then-National Security Adviser Vice Adm. John Poindexter.

Mr. McFarlane, who was replaced by Adm. Poindexter in December 1985, said in an interview Tuesday night on ABC-TV's "nightline," he was called out of retirement to undertake the Tehran mission in May 1986.

He said Adm. Poindexter called him to say a deal had been struck with the Iranians that "would call for the release of all our hostages and hopefully turn in a new direction, to discuss our disagreements, the political agenda."

"He (Poindexter) said the president had approved it. He asked that I come in finally in May to be briefed and brought up to speed on where matters stood and I was given instructions, about four pages, that dealt with this set of political disagreements (between the Americans and Iranians)," Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. McFarlane said he asked if cabinet officers were involved, "and was told that they were and that the president had approved these instructions."

Mr. McFarlane said the arrangement called for the hostages to be freed and the body of a slain hostage, William Buckley, to be returned.

"The president made it clear that the arrangement reached before I went over was to be fulfilled and not negotiated," Mr. McFarlane said.

Mr. McFarlane flew to Tehran in a plane with military material and accompanied by Lt.-Col. Oliver North, a White House aide, along with a former CIA officer and several other current and former government officials.

The White House has said the military hardware was to help improve the relationship between the two countries and has denied it was an arms-for-hostages deal. Mr. McFarlane did not specify details on the role of the material in the arrangement involving the hostages.

He said the arrangement called

for "all the hostages to be released in a phased process. The first two of which would be released upon my arrival, the additional two shortly thereafter and Mr. Buckley's remains within a matter of hours after that."

Mr. McFarlane said two hostages were to be released in the custody of Americans in a third country.

When asked where the weapons fit in, Mr. McFarlane said he could not provide details.

"The president from the beginning, and I am profoundly persuaded of this, at no time would he undertake or countenance anybody breaking the law or doing something against regulation or policy," Mr. McFarlane said.

Adm. Poindexter resigned on Nov. 25 and Col. North, a National Security Council aide, was fired when Attorney General Edwin Meese disclosed that proceeds of Iranian arms sales had been diverted to the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

According to congressional sources, Mr. McFarlane has testified to committees investigating the Iran-contra affair that the president initially approved arms shipments to Iran in the summer of 1985.

However, White House officials have said Mr. Reagan approved the shipments only after the arms were delivered in September

1985. Mr. McFarlane denied he gave the Iranians a Bible but admitted that he had a cake with him on his trip to Tehran.

"It was the product of a spontaneous idea of Col. North to take something of a celebratory nature as turning a new page," Mr. McFarlane said.

He said a Bible was exchanged on a subsequent trip by Col. North in Germany but "apparently was not on my trip."

Mr. McFarlane's account differs in some other details from previous news reports. ABC-TV reported last week that Col. North argued in favor of accepting the Iranians' proffered release of two hostages, but that Mr. McFarlane held out for all four hostages. But Mr. McFarlane said Tuesday, "I had nothing to do with the negotiations of the hostages."

After Mr. McFarlane and his group went home, the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenou was released on July 26 in Lebanon. More arms sales followed, and another hostage, David Jacobson, was freed on Nov. 2, 1986.

Five other American hostages are still held in Lebanon. Earlier Tuesday, Vice President George Bush confirmed for the first time Buckley's death and said the U.S. embassy official kidnapped in Beirut in 1984 had been tortured and killed.

Mousavi: U.S. hostages, financial dispute not linked

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said Wednesday the issue of U.S. hostages in Lebanon should not be linked to Iran's financial disputes with the United States, now under arbitration in The Hague.

Iranian leaders have said they will intercede with pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon for the release of American hostages held there if Washington delivers large quantities of arms paid for by Tehran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Three U.S. hostages have been released in Lebanon since mid-1985 when Washington

started secret efforts, including the shipment of weapons, to improve relations with Tehran and enlist its help in freeing hostages."

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last month without elaborating that the Americans paid ransom in return for Iran's intervention in the Lebanon hostage affair.

Mr. Mousavi, quoted by the Iranian News Agency IRNA, said Wednesday the problem of the U.S. hostages was related to "groups inside Lebanon and to the U.S.-Middle East policies."

Court seizes Khashoggi's \$30m New York apartment

NEW YORK (R) — A luxurious condominium valued at \$30 million has been ordered seized from Adnan Khashoggi's security for a \$20 million debt.

The plush flat, on Fifth Avenue in one of Manhattan's most exclusive buildings, was put together by the Saudi Arabian millionaire from 16 separate flats.

Court papers say Manhattan supreme court Justice Jawn Sandifer ordered the flat seized and held a security against principal and interest that the London-based mining and trading conglomerate Lounbo Picasayit is owed.

Mr. Khashoggi also served as a

financial middleman in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran.

Sandifer scheduled a hearing on the issue for March 6, but said, according to court papers, that it is "probable that plaintiff will succeed on the merits of its cause of action."

Lounbo claims in its action that Mr. Khashoggi's company, Handingair Macdon Ltd., had defaulted on loans he personally guaranteed.

The company says \$4,768,736 was owed but Mr. Khashoggi paid \$2.5 million after Lounbo seized a DC-9 airplane in Paris that he owned. The plane was returned.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat meets with Tunisian premier

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accompanied by his deputy military commander, has had talks in Tunis with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar, the official press reported Wednesday. The talks were the first between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief and the Tunisian government since a security clamp on PLO personnel here four months ago.

UAE donates 2 Boeing 707s to Sudan

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) president, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan, has donated two Boeing 707 passenger planes to Sudan, the semi-official daily Al Itihad reported Wednesday. It quoted a Sudanese official in Khartoum as saying the first would arrive in Sudan Thursday.

7 killed as Egyptian houses collapse

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Three people were killed and 12 injured when 10 mud-brick houses collapsed in the central Egyptian town of Assiut, officials have said. In Cairo, four people including two children died when a four-story house in the crowded Boulouq area collapsed, the evening newspaper Al Massa has reported. Assiut officials said 10 more houses adjacent to those which collapsed had been evacuated, with a total 30 families made homeless.

Mujahedeen reports killing clergyman

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The People's Mujahedeen organisation, an Iranian opposition group claimed Wednesday that its supporters killed a clergyman in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz. In a statement telecast to the Associated Press in Nicosia from its headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, the Mujahedeen said the group killed Fakhraddin Tabatabaei, an official at the revolutionary prosecutor's office in Ahvaz on Monday. Two of Tabatabaei's bodyguards were wounded in the attack, the statement said.

Iran receives Finnish explosives

HELSINKI (R) — A public prosecutor has charged a Finnish company with illegally exporting 2,000 tonnes of explosives by way of Sweden to countries including Iran, court officials in the southern Finnish town of Hanko said. The Forcit Company admitted in court it had exported the explosives but said it obtained the proper export permits and that Finnish authorities had not asked for end use certificates, the officials told reporters.

Irish soldier's wife rejects Israeli offer

DUBLIN (R) — The widow of an Irish U.N. peace-keeping soldier killed in Lebanon has angrily rejected an Israeli offer of compensation as "arrogant, insensitive and ill-timed." Israel offered \$50,000 after admitting responsibility for the death of Corporal Dermot McLoughlin, the 21st Irish soldier to die while serving with UNIFIL troops in Lebanon. Mrs. Holly McLoughlin, who has five children, said in a statement: "I reject this offer. How many more members of UNIFIL have to be exposed to injury before the ordinary people of Israel wake up to what is being done in their name in Lebanon?"

'Iraqi planes capable of striking at Israel'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Iraqi Air Force has increased its long-range capability during its war with Iran and is now able to strike at Israel without using intermediate airfields, the chief of Israel's air force has said.

Maj.-Gen. Amos Lapidot said the Iraqis "have much better range and don't need to deploy its forces to airfields in Jordan or in Syria" to refuel en route to Israel.

Gen. Lapidot spoke to foreign military attaches on a tour of an Israeli air base, and parts of his speech were broadcast on Israeli army radio.

According to a report by the Tel Aviv-based Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, Israel is equipped with Soviet-made MiG-23 planes which have a mission radius of 950 kilometres.

In addition, the Iraqi Air Force's offensive capability was increased last year by the acquisition of French-built Mirage F-1 fighter-bombers armed with laser-guided bombs.

Rabin allows Amnesty to inspect Israeli prisons

TEL AVIV (R) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has offered to let Amnesty International inspect any Israeli prison at any time to check allegations of torture, defence sources said Wednesday.

They said Rabin made the offer at a meeting Tuesday night with the secretary-general of the London-based human rights group, Ian Martin, who is visiting Israel.

"As a gesture of goodwill, the minister offered (Amnesty) on behalf of the Defence Department to visit any prison at any time including the rooms where detainees are interrogated," source said.

Israeli sources said Mr. Martin had rejected Rabin's offer but no Amnesty official was available for comment after the meeting.

Amnesty last year published reports of torture by former Palestinian prisoners in the occupied West Bank and urged Israel to hold a judicial inquiry into the reports.

Moscow calls for removal of British bases in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Moscow's ambassador to Cyprus said Wednesday the demilitarisation of the island, including the removal of British bases, was essential for regional peace.

Ambassador Yuri Fokine told a news conference that the presence of the bases bred tension in and around Cyprus.

"We read a lot about the possibility of the bases being used against Arab states such as Syria or Libya or that Cyprus may become a point on the way of certain military forces into the Gulf area," he said.

This should be borne in mind by those seeking to defuse the dangerous situation in the eastern Mediterranean, he said.

Demilitarisation is a key part of a year-old Soviet proposal for an international conference under United Nations auspices to resolve the problems of the ethnic division of Cyprus between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 — Koran
15:50 — Programme review
16:05 — Toot Sawyer
16:20 — Children's programmes
17:30 — Local health programme
18:00 — Teaching French
18:30 — Local contests programme
19:30 — News programme
19:50 — Programme review and varieties
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:40 — Arabic series
21:30 — Tomorrow's programmes
21:35 — Arabic Film
22:00 — News summary in Arabic
22:10 — Film continued

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 — Michael Lech Show
18:00 — News in French
19:15 — La vallee des peupliers
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — World Sports
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Paul Daniel Show
21:10 — Ramington Steele
22:00 — News in English
22:10 — Feature film "Fetalia" — George Scatz, Julie Christie

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PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — News
08:00 — Morning Show
08:30 — News Summary
09:05 — Morning Show
11:00 — My World
11:30 — Easy Listening
12:00 — News Summary
12:05 — Reading
13:00 — News Summary
13:05 — Spectrum
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — Instrumentals
14:30 — Just a Minute
15:00 — Concert Hour
16:00 — News Summary
16:05 — Instrumentals
16:30 — Old Favourites
17:00 — Discovering Music
17:30 — Pop Session
18:00 — News Summary
18:05 — Special Feature
18:30 — Music
19:00 — Newsdesk
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:05 — Evening Show Contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 — Et demain viendra le jour
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — France in Hebrew
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — History of Medicine
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Thelma (Comedy)
21:00 — Weekly Preview
21:10 — Falcon Crest
22:00 — News in English
22:20 — Paradise Postponed

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & parity on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 — Light Music

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"A painting exhibition entitled: 'On the Banks of Jordan' at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luveldah (until Jan. 23).

"An exhibition of photographs entitled 'La Ville' at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).

"An art exhibition by Sa'ad Ali at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.

"An exhibition of folkloric dolls by Syrian artist Unaina Alamy at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 25).

BRITISH FILMS

"British film week at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 24).

Tonight's film: 'Shooting Party' at 7:00 p.m.

Friday's film: 'The Killing Field' at 7:00 p.m.

FEATURE FILM

"Heaven can wait" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 644370

British Council 636147-8

French Cultural Centre 641009

Goethe Institute 641009

Soviet Cultural Centre 642035

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

U.S. Arts Centre 651595

Y.W.C.A. 641793

Y.W.M.C.A. 642251

Jordan Municipal Library 636111

University of Jordan Library 843535

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Maratha and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luveldah, 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.

Terrace Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luveldah, Roman in Italian language, every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623256.

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678006.

Al-Balqa Church (Greek Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.

Assiuta Orthodox Church Ashrafah, 752651.

St. John Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafah, 771551.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Samir) Tel. 811295.

Interdenominational meetings in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.

PRAYER TIMES

05:19 — Sunrise

06:32 — Sunrise

14:40 — Sunset

17:03 — Sunset

18:25 — Sunset

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00 — Agaba (RJ)

09:20 — Cairo (RJ)

09:25 — Jeddah (RJ)

10:00 — Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:05 — Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

10:05 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:30 — Cairo, Agaba (RJ)

10:35 — London (RJ)

10:35 — New York, Vienna (RJ)

10:40 — Athens (RJ)

10:45 — Bucharest, Lameza (RJ)

01:00 — Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

11:45 — Kuwait (LN)

12:30 — Baghdad (IA)

12:30 — Doha, Kuwait (RJ)

12:35 — Istanbul, Ankara (RJ)

12:35 — Athens (SV)

12:35 — Amsterdam, Damascus (RJ)

12:35 — London (RJ)

12:35 — Cairo (MS)

12:35 — Zurich, Lameza (RJ)

01:50 — London, Baghdad (BA)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:05 — Agaba (RJ)

06:05 — Lameza, Damascus (RJ)

06:05 — Rome (RJ)

11:30 — Cairo (RJ)

11:30 — Athens (RJ)

11:30 — London (RJ)

11:30 — Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)

12:30 — Paris (RJ)

12:30 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

12:35 — Cairo (RJ)

12:35 — Abu Dhabi (RJ)

12:35 — Jeddah (RJ)

12:35 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

12:35 — Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:40 — Damascus, Athens (OA)

08:00 — Damascus, Paris (AF)

08:30 — Beirut (ME)

11:30 — Athens (SV)

11:30 — Tripoli (LN)

11:30 — Baghdad (IA)

14:00 — Bahrain, Doha (GF)

15:00 — Kuwait (RJ)

15:30 — Riyadh (TC)

16:00 — Sana'a (LH)

16:30 — Cairo (MS)

03:00 — London (BA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

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— Kasima Maru

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MONEY EXCHANGE

Wednesday rates

Local sell/buy rates in JLS

Belgian franc 86/8

Dutch guilder 159/9

French franc 54/47

Italian lire 25/3

Japanese yen (for 100) 216/9

Swedish krona 50/6

Swiss franc 214/5

U.S. dollar 504/7

U.S. dollar 334/7

W. German mark 180/3

182/9

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fair weather is expected with medium to high clouds and southeasterly light to moderate winds. In Aqaba, northerly, moderate winds and calm seas are expected.

Amman: Min

Negotiations underway for \$150m international loan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is currently finalising negotiations for a \$150 million loan from a consortium of international banks, according to a senior Jordanian official. The official said that conditions for the loan, which he termed as "very good," would be made available in the very near future.

The official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, declined to comment any further on the loan's sources and terms saying only that "as soon as the accord is signed, all details will be revealed."

It was earlier reported that the Amman-based Arab Bank Ltd. was asked by the Finance Ministry to sound out the possibility of arranging the seven-year loan.

Another recent statement issued by the Arab Bank's offshore banking unit in Bahrain said conditions of the loan would be made known at a later stage.

This is Jordan's first attempt to tap the international loan market for 19 months. The country last

went to the international markets for a \$215 million eight-year loan in July 1985. That deal was also arranged by the Arab Bank.

The Jordanian official declined to say whether the present loan would be used to finance schemes included in Jordan's JD 1.15 billion 1986-1990 five-year development plan, or on other sectors. Despite falling Arab aid, international economic recession, and high dependence on imported oil, Jordan managed to avoid commercial foreign borrowing last year.

However, the country's 1987 fiscal budget forces a JD 37.6 million deficit to be bridged by more efficient tax collection, rationalisation of public expenditures and decreasing foreign imports.

Central Bank of Jordan statistics show external debt fell 0.9 per cent during the third quarter of 1986 to JD 1.02 billion and was nearly three per cent below the peak of 1.05 billion (\$3 billion) registered at the end of 1985.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dakhqan arrives in Damascus

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan arrived in Damascus on Wednesday on a three-day visit to Syria during which he will take part in the meetings of the general assemblies of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and the Jordanian-Syrian Shipping Company. During the visit, Mr. Dakhqan will also hold talks with his Syrian counterpart on bilateral cooperation between the two countries in transport fields.

Dudin visits UNRWA office

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin on Wednesday visited the regional office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Amman. He met with Mr. Elie Saff, UNRWA director in Jordan, with whom he reviewed different services offered by the agency to Palestinian refugees living in the Kingdom.

Parliamentarians tour police centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of Parliament members Wednesday morning paid a visit to the Muhajireen police centre where they met with Brigadier Mousa Sweilem, the deputy director of the Amman police department, and his assistant Major Fakhri Iskandar who heads the centre. They were briefed on the integrated activities and services of the newly opened centre and toured its different sections.

New batch of police officers graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held at the headquarters of the public security brigades on Wednesday for the graduation of a new batch of police officers. Speeches were made on the occasion by Brigadier Mahmoud Khashman and Major Fawwaz Zuhair. Diplomas were distributed to the graduates and awards presented to those who excelled in their training courses.

Captagon trafficker receives 10 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court in Amman has sentenced Ali Khleif Qwader to 10 years in prison and fined him JD 1,500 for trafficking in Captagon pills. The military governor Wednesday endorsed the sentence.

Legal advisors, public suggest amendments to apartment act

By Margarette Hall
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Business and Professional Women's Club held a one-day legal debate on the apartment building act on Tuesday at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation. This was the club's seventh discussion on legal problems which frequently presented to the Consulting Office for Women.

The specialists in this field who discussed and suggested reforms were: Lawyer Na'ilah Al Rashdan, who is the president of the club's legal committee and a member of the previous consulting board, Dr. Hamza Haddad, an assistant professor at the University of Jordan, lawyer Raghib Al Kasim, and Judge Ahmad Al Momani who is the head of the Court of First Instance in Zarqa. Judge Momani was the first person to write a book on arbitrary laws concerning this act in Jordan.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mrs. Rashdan said the debate was necessary because the apartment building act is a new law and that the application of it was also quite new since it had not found its way into the civil courts. There were problems that were taking place and that were going to occur which would result in people going to court, she noted. Therefore, the discussion was useful and important in preventing future disputes by trying to find solutions recommended by the public.

As for the proposed changes concerning the Department of Land and Surveys, it was suggested that certificates of ownership for the common parts of the buildings be issued with numerical references rather than with the landlords' names. This number would automatically revert to new owners and thus, certificates would not have to be constantly changed.

Suggested reforms were: to ensure that the law was applied correctly at the Department of Land and Surveys so that all documents would be legal. For example, to give the land and the joint parts a number '1' according to the law rather than the frequent practice at the Department of Land and Surveys of giving the land the numerical value of zero and the common parts '1'. In other words, to begin numbering apartments two, three and so on. To make sure that the law would be applied precisely, a sample for organisation was proposed to include the basic requirements. Those taking part in the discussion also suggested forming an administrative procedure to correct errors in registration and leases that violate the law.

As this was a discussion involving problems in society, it was open to all members of the public in order to ensure that certain provisions of the act were really understood. Many interpretations, ideas and complaints were put forward, among which was the case of a woman who lived in an apartment and for three months water had been leaking into her flat from the flat above, and into the one below. She said that her landlord had just ignored her complaints. Judge Momani advised her to go to the committee of owners which would force her landlord to mend the damage—and said that the president of this association could fine the owner for his negligence. In the absence of such a committee, the problem would become personal.

The debate on the apartment building act was interesting and helpful in guiding tenants and landlords in their various problems. Also, the suggested reforms did not only come from the specialists in this field, but by members of society including employees from the Department of Land and Surveys.



Bags of packed hashish seized by the security forces this week after an extensive operation to crack a gang of drug smugglers

Police seize 140 kg of hashish, opium and apprehend 27-member gang

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The police have seized 140 kilograms of hashish and opium which has a street value of at least JD 250,000 and have also apprehended a 27-member gang of various nationalities who had been dealing in illicit drugs.

The announcement was made by Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the Public Security Department's Anti Narcotics Department, during a press conference held in Amman on Wednesday.

The group of drug traffickers were led by four ring leaders, he said, and had been using Jordanian territory as a thoroughfare for marketing hashish in neighbouring Arab states, Col. Qaisi said.

The group, he continued, had been bringing in large quantities of drugs through the northern borders of Jordan en route to selling the narcotics in Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The members of the group, who the police recognised early in the investigations, "were placed under constant surveillance for more than a year until they were seized by the police in Jordan earlier this month, Col. Qaisi said.

He said that hashish used to be smuggled into the country on donkeys, in cars or using other means and that these operations

were mostly carried out at night. The drugs trafficked by the gang were hidden in furniture, cereal sacks and in other places, he continued.

A police officer was assigned the task of cooperating with the gang members and working under cover, passing information about the hashish smuggling and actually purchasing some of the drugs, Col. Qaisi added. He said that when all the sufficient evidence had been gathered, the gang members were arrested.

Drugs in transit

According to Col. Qaisi, 90 per cent of the drugs coming into Jordan are not used in this country but are destined to be sold to neighbouring states. However, he noted that part of the consignment had reached the Jordanian markets and therefore the Anti Narcotics Department is doing all it can to stop drug trafficking of any sort and to any destination.

He went on to say that his department is in the process of promoting and modernising its techniques to combat drug trafficking in the Kingdom and has imported police dogs from West Germany to help detect hidden drugs. The department will next week embark on a drug-searching operation starting from the northern border town of Ramtha and moving to other parts of the country, including the desert, to

find hidden drugs, Col. Qaisi announced.

Stiffer penalties

Another measure to stem drug trafficking will be the enactment of a new law on narcotics which would raise the penalty for the offence to execution and confiscation of the smuggler's property, Col. Qaisi added. He said that the Jordanian authorities are now coordinating their efforts with neighbouring countries in order to stem smuggler's activities in general and to end drug trafficking in particular.

At the end of the press conference, newsmen saw a film showing how one of the gang members had been arrested by the security forces. The criminal owns a two-storey house at Duleil, near Zarqa, which he used as a headquarters for the operations.

Hashish found growing in the street

Meanwhile, a report in the local press on Wednesday said that hashish plants had been found growing in the open in a flower bed along Hashemi street in eastern Amman. According to the report, a team from the Anti Narcotics Department visited the site and collected 105 plants of hashish and police were investigating the case.

Kanaan, Saqqaf brief Japanese team on 5-year plan, investment facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Japanese economic delegation on Wednesday met Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan who spoke about Jordan's current five-year plan and priority projects for implementation. The minister also spoke about the government's facilities and incentives offered to investors in the Kingdom and its drive to help the private sector play a greater role in the country's national economy.

The delegation also heard a briefing on Jordan's economic development in the second half of the 1970's and an outline of projects the government is carrying out to create new jobs for unemployed people.

The meeting was held in the

presence of Dr. Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, and directors of the ministry's departments.

Later, the Japanese delegation met with Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, with whom they discussed trade relations between Japan and Jordan.

Mr. Saqqaf said that Jordan annually imports a variety of products from Japan worth at least \$160 million, but that Japan imports very small amounts of Jordanian phosphates and potash. Mr. Saqqaf underlined the need for Japan to import more Jordanian products to help adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

Mr. Saqqaf also reviewed

Jordan's laws which offer facilities and incentives to Arab and foreign investors and he outlined the benefits of investments in the Kingdom. Reviewing projects to be implemented in the current five-year development plan, Mr. Saqqaf expressed hope that Japanese businessmen would help implement these projects.

Mr. Saqqaf specifically pointed out Jordan's interest in establishing small and medium-scale industrial projects and setting up vocational training centres.

The Japanese delegation, which arrived here on Tuesday on a visit to last several days, will be meeting with other Jordanian officials and Jordanian businessmen.

Hindawi, British Council director discuss training

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The British Council is ready to do all it can to help promote its cultural and educational cooperation with the Ministry of Education, British Council Director General John Burgh said here Wednesday.

Mr. Burgh, who arrived in Amman on Tuesday for a four-day visit to Jordan, was speaking during a meeting with Minister of Education Thougan Hindawi. He expressed his satisfaction over Jordan's implementation of a programme, for instructing Jordanian teachers in the use of computers for school children. Jordan has sent some of these teachers to Britain for training courses.

During the meeting, Mr. Burgh and the minister reviewed bilateral cooperation and joint programmes which are being implemented over a period of five years. In particular, they discussed programmes concerning training people to teach English as a second language. The minister paid tribute to the British Council for its efforts in promoting computer training programmes which the ministry started recently in schools around the Kingdom.

Mr. Hindawi also praised the council for promoting English teaching at schools and organising trips and courses for teachers in the United Kingdom. Mr. Burgh said that more efforts are needed to enable teachers of English to improve their performance and efficiency.

The Ministry of Education's Secretary General Ahmad Al Bashairah and British Council representative in Jordan David Latta attended the meeting in the minister's office.

Visit to university

Also Wednesday, Mr. Burgh visited the University of Jordan and met its president, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. Talks during the meeting centred on Jordan's education and higher education, and the university's programmes. The university is now taking measures to promote post graduate studies and is implementing programmes which would help implement the country's current five year development programmes, Dr. Majali said.

Mr. Burgh toured the university's departments and was briefed on their activities and programmes.

Senate rejects Lower House amendment to draft land appropriation law

Parliament debates time limits for land usage and administration of future railway extensions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senators on Wednesday rejected an amendment to a land appropriation law passed by the Lower House of Parliament opposing restrictions on government use of appropriated land.

The Upper House (Senate), which unanimously voted against the amendment, returned the draft law to the House's legal committee for reconsideration. The law, issued in 1980, gave the government and its agencies total freedom to use designated land, but set a limit of three years for government cooperatives to use the land before the original owner(s) could reclaim it through legal means.

The House amendment to the legislation granted a period of five years to the government, municipalities and affiliated institutions to use the land instead of a previous unlimited period.

Sensors Mudar Badran and Ahmad Al Tarawneh strongly argued against the deputies' modification to the law and charged that no time limits should be set for the government to use appropriated land. Newly-appointed Senate member Mohammad Ali Bdeir was in

favour of the amendment saying that either all appropriators should be treated on equal footing, or the whole amendment should be scrapped.

Senator Khalil Al Salem, who also is rapporteur of the Senate's financial committee, said that although he opposed some of the articles in the law, the amendment on setting time spans should be removed since the government could always re-appropriate any land, even if a five-year limit was set.

Senate member Walid Salah said he supported the deputies' amendment charging it gave the land owner the right to reclaim his appropriated land if the purchaser was not using it after the suggested set period of time. "Justice requires that we keep the proposed five-year period for reclamation purposes by the original owners," said Mr. Salah.

At this point, Mr. Tarawneh, who also is rapporteur of the Senate's legal committee, told Mr. Salah that it was unfair for any land owner to get his appropriated land back through legal means since the government usually decided to allocate land for projects included in its future schemes. "It is unjust to set a specified period for the completion of any huge government project. These infrastructure-oriented projects are usually accompanied by other services schemes," said Mr. Tarawneh.

Mr. Tarawneh questioned Mr. Salah's suggestion saying: "Is it possible to build public service schemes before the project's infrastructure is completed?" Former Prime Minister Mr. Badran said he was against setting time period and said: "Usually

appropriated land is secured for the general public's welfare and not for personal, private gains."

He further conceded that the government was paying prices for appropriated lands which on average were higher than the market price. "Setting time limits for public use of appropriated land and later regaining them through courts would only lead to the misuse of public funds and the general welfare," he continued.

Senator Tarawneh asserted that the principle of justice was achieved through giving the original land owners adequate compensations for appropriating his land (s).

Mr. Tarawneh was retorting a point raised by Mr. Bdeir that the principle of justice should be based on the needs of the weak parties (land owners) and not on the demands of the strong sides (the government) vis-a-vis land appropriations.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, present during the almost two-hour session, said he was against specified time limits for government use of earmarked land(s), adding that any appropriation was only made for the sake of general public welfare.

"There should be no time limits whatsoever on the government's projects to be set up on appropriated land," said Mr. Rifai, saying if one is to achieve general public welfare he should support the Senate legal committee's suggestion to refer the law back to the Lower House for further study.

During the session, the senators also endorsed the 1986 draft law on youth care, an amendment to the 1986 Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) law, amendments to the 1984 law on the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) and a 1985 agreement between Jordan and Syria for setting up a joint company for insecticides.

Railway extension under fire

The amendment to the 1986 (Continued on page 4)

Cement factories company to sell shares to the public


AMMAN (J.T.) — Shares of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) will be put on sale to the public at the Amman Financial Market on Saturday, according to the company's director general Khalidoun Al Thaher.

He said that all measures for merging the South Cement Company with the JCFC have been completed and the new company now has a capital of JD 50 million, adding that each share is now worth JD 1.5.

Dr. Thaher said that the government has offered his company facilities enabling it to

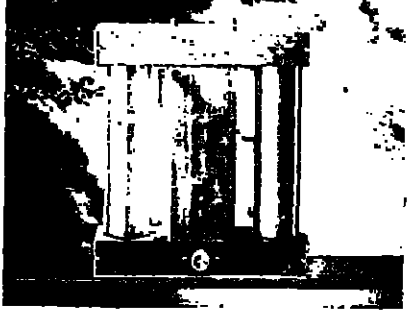
meet all its financial commitments. The agreement with the government will enable the company to distribute annual dividends at the rate of six per cent to all shareholders, he said.

The South Cement Company and the JCFC merged last year after the former company suffered heavy losses. The merger took place despite objections from JCFC shareholders who feared that the move would put additional burdens on their company which will have to shoulder most of the South Cement Factory's debts.



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BRITISH EMBASSY ANNUAL NOTICE TO ALL BRITISH NATIONALS LIVING IN JORDAN

??? Have you registered with the British Embassy??? If you are a British citizen and live in Jordan please contact the British Embassy, Consular Section, in order to obtain a registration form.

If you have been registered for a year or more and have not confirmed your continuing presence in Jordan, please do so by contacting the Consular Section as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register. If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located on Third Circle in Jabal Amman. The telephone number is 641261-8 and the Post Office Box Number is 87.

The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1330 hours.

The Israeli imprint on U.S. policy

By Rex B. Wingerter

The following article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International. The writer is a Washington, DC-based attorney and writer.

AMONG the revelations about the Reagan administration's transfer of weapons to Iran has been Israel's role in the affair. The accepted story in Washington is that David Kimche, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, convinced the National Security Council's Robert McFarlane in the summer of 1985 of the need to improve relations with Iran, saying that Israel could play a key intermediary role in setting up initial meetings between the two countries. Moreover U.S. weapons transfers to Iran, promised Israeli officials, would be the diplomatic currency that the Iranian leadership would best understand. When McFarlane rejected the idea of direct U.S. arms shipments to Iran, Israel conveniently offered to relay them from Israeli stockpiles. McFarlane agreed and the plan went forward, eventually leading to direct U.S. weapons shipments, and the still unfolding political maelstrom.

What the administration either overlooked or discounted was that in accepting Kimche's plan, the U.S. was also adopting the basic outlines of Israel's policy toward Iran. For years Israel has been sending weapons to Iran in order to prolong the Iran-Iraq war. Arms shipments may have been the acceptable tender for that policy, but for U.S. objectives, it was disastrous. The Iranian debacle underscores the Reagan administration's willingness to follow Israel's lead on Middle East policy-making. Indeed, the administration's entire anti-terrorist policy — from its conceptual roots to its attack on

Libya — has Israel's imprint all over it. The U.S. admires Israel's tough, militaristic stand against the Arab World and was persuaded that American military force would change Qadhafi's behaviour, that armed retaliation stops terrorism. Were such assumptions valid?

According to Israeli spokesmen, the answer is an emphatic yes. One former Israeli intelligence chief confidently told an American television audience following the Libyan strike that despite "sitting on occupied territory" and living with an "alien" population for 19 years, tough Israeli counter-measures had taken care of the problem of terrorism in the Jewish state. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, repeatedly tells American television audiences that Israel has defeated terrorism. But the facts belie such assertions. Armed attacks against Israelis in the region of the West Bank town of Nablus for instance, whether or not they are deemed "terrorist" acts, nearly doubled in 1985 from the prior year, according to the Israeli military. One hundred and sixty-seven petrol bombs hurled at Israeli installations accounted for most of the attacks. Israeli police reports show that acts involving guns, explosives or fire bombs averaged more than six a day. Significantly, "the attacks were more sophisticated and audacious than in previous years."

Further doubts about the effectiveness of retaliatory force come from the Rand Corporation's *Chronology of International Terrorism*. Analyst

Bruce Hoffmann found that Israel's massive 1982 invasion of Lebanon "had little effect — and, moreover, only an ephemeral one at that — on the level of Palestinian terrorist activity." The number of Palestinian attacks in Israel in 1984 tripled from the previous year. What's more, attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets outside Israel also increased after the invasion. Statistics such as these invalidate Israel's claim to have halted "terrorism." They inspire little confidence in Reagan's assurances that bombing Libya changed Qadhafi's behaviour. But the failure of Israel's anti-terrorist policy is best understood when contrasted with the economy of its retaliatory and pre-emptive operations.

Israel's declared retaliatory policy for Arab attacks is swift, massive and continuous action. When Palestinians killed an Israeli mother and two children in 1953, Ariel Sharon retaliated by attacking the Jordanian village of Qibya, leaving 42 men, women and children dead and 41 houses destroyed. After 11 Israeli athletes were murdered at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, Israel reprisal raids over Syria and Lebanon killed anywhere between 200 and 500 people, mostly civilians. One purpose of these attacks was to inflict blows so stunning that Palestinians would cease their attacks and forego their dream of ever returning to Palestine. Another message was that a stiff price would have to be paid by any Arab country supporting or even acquiescing in the presence of the PLO. Israeli General Yitzhak Rabin explained in 1966 that "as long as this (Israel's) side of the border will not be quiet, no quiet

will prevail on the other side." In carrying out this policy toward Lebanon in the first nine months of 1975, Israeli attacks left at least 236 civilians dead, nearly 600 wounded, and destroyed about 500 homes. Yet Palestinian attacks persisted; so Israel escalated its retaliation. In 1978 over 25,000 Israeli troops marched into southern Lebanon. This invasion left 1,168 dead, almost half of them civilians, and made some 285,000 people homeless. Four years later, the same logic compelled Israel to launch a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. Thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians were killed and the "PLO infrastructure" smashed. It was supposed to bring peace to Israel. Yet the Rand Corporation found that within three years Palestinian attacks against Israel had returned to their pre-invasion level.

Israel has failed completely to alter the Palestinians' determination to use armed force to regain their homeland. Instead, its policy of "pre-emptive" and retaliatory attacks has created a spiral of ever increasing violence. The Reagan administration has now joined Israel on the same road, with the attack on Libya signalling the White House's acceptance of Israel's anti-terrorist philosophy. This shift in the U.S. policy was no coincidence. For years Israeli leaders have pressed the White House to duplicate the Jewish state's policy of harsh retaliation against Palestinian attacks. The most high-powered effort came from the Jonathan Institute, an organisation in Israel which convened its first conference in Jerusalem in 1977 in order "to begin the formation of an

anti-terrorist alliance." The Institute claimed that the Soviet Union was behind worldwide terrorism, and sought to forge a tight alliance with like-minded Americans. Speakers at the conference, many of whom have gained significant influence in the Reagan administration, included senator Henry Jackson, congressman Jack Kemp, and then private citizen George Bush. AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland was present as was columnist George Will and publisher Norman Podhoretz. The conservative, anti-Soviet and pro-Israeli viewpoints of these speakers were well known. A second Jonathan Institute conference was held seven years later in Washington DC, and was attended by Secretary of State George Shultz, presidential counsellor Edwin Meese, U.N. ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, and FBI director William Webster. The U.S. Senate and the media were also well represented.

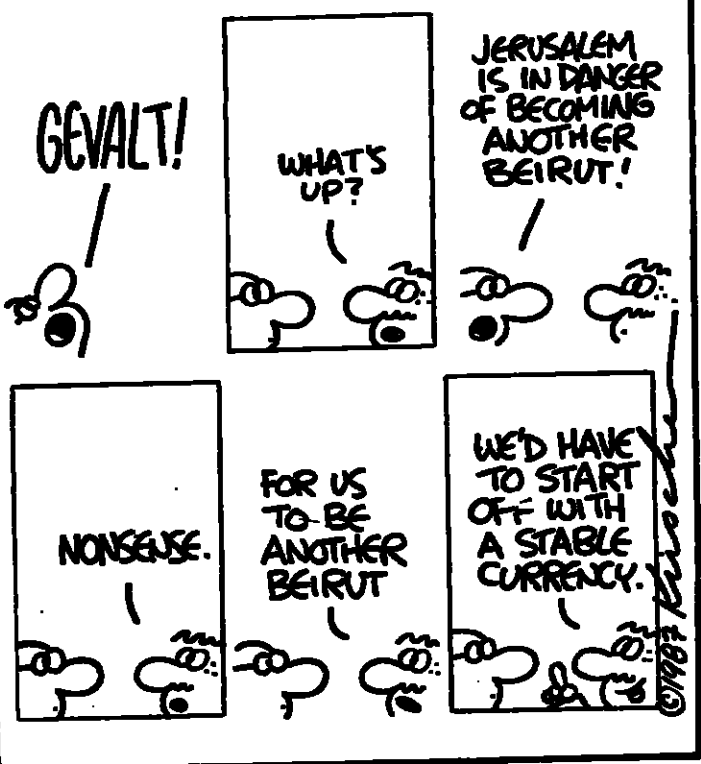
The theme at the second conference was the same as the first, only shriller: terrorism was controlled by the Soviet Union and the West had the moral obligation and legal right to bring military action against any state that supported terrorism. Israel's policy of pre-emption was praised, with Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens claiming that Israel's Entebbe rescue mission was an "objective lesson that terror can be defeated." It was here that George Shultz urged the West to take "appropriate preventive or pre-emptive actions" against terrorism. The Institute and its supporters also framed the context of the U.S. response to terrorism, with complete silence on non-military alternatives. *Time* magazine gave

important assistance to this effort the week Reagan ordered the attack against Libya by printing excerpts from a forthcoming book *Terrorism: how the West can win* by the founder of the Jonathan Institute and Israel's U.N. ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu.

"International terrorism," declares Netanyahu, does not arise from "social misery and frustration" but is "rooted in the political ambitions and designs of expansionist states and the groups that serve them. Without the support of such states, international terrorism would be impossible." Because terrorism is "a conspiracy against the West," Netanyahu urges a "continuous campaign against its sponsors," identified as the Soviet Union, Cuba, north Korea, Libya, Iran, Syria, Iraq and South Yemen. Hot pursuit, retaliation and pre-emptive action are only "self-defence," which "takes precedence over sovereignty." "The more the U.S. resorts to action," promises Netanyahu, "the greater the number of states that will join the American effort to combat terrorism."

Much of the Reagan administration's justification for attacking Libya can be found in the arguments of Netanyahu and his companions. "Self-defence," "moral necessity," and "preserving Western freedoms" have all come to be invoked by official and semi-official White House spokesmen. Now that the administration has adopted Israeli methods of dealing with terrorism, we can expect a lot more of the same polemic in both Hebrew and English, and each country seeks to bomb Arab insurgency into submission.

Dry Bones



BY "currency," the cartoonist of The Jerusalem Post's Dry Bones above might have well meant shekel and dollars, but we think the meaning is deeper than that. The two currencies, the Lebanese lira and the Israeli shekel have the runs, it is true, but it is possible that the Dry Bones cartoonist had something other than that afloat in mind.

In the light of the recent escalation in violent attacks among Arabs and Israelis in Jerusalem and the ensuing cycle of action and reaction, that perhaps what the cartoonist had in mind was to reflect Israeli fears that the Holy City was turning into Beirut in the sense that the killings and violence were on the rise and that there was nothing that could be done to prevent this from happening under the present circumstances.

There were eight major bloody incidents in Jerusalem since last August and an untold feeling of hatred and animosity between Jews and Arabs. But whereas the inevitable future in Beirut and Lebanon is the return to normality and harmonious relations among the various factions, the situation in Jerusalem is fundamentally different. While the occupation continues, the future of the occupied territories will remain indeed bleak and the prospects for peaceful coexistence and harmonious relations between the Jews and Arabs will remain practically nil.

While the present situation of occupiers and occupied continues, the relationship between Jew and Arab will still carry the seeds for perpetual conflict and animosity. Some Israelis know this, but Israel, the state, has to realise that its attempts to force Arab-Jewish harmony and normalisation under the shadow of occupation are doomed to failure. As the Israelis should have realised by now, 20 years after occupation, the city of Jerusalem remains effectively and decisively divided, despite all the military, political and judicial pressures Israel has brought to bear on the inhabitants of the Holy City. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that till this day the living bones of Israel could not see what one Israel's Dry Bones appears to have seen. One wonders what it will take for Israel to come to its senses and accept the facts of life as they are and not as it likes to imagine them to be.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arabs seek just peace

IN yesterday's editorial Al Ra'i newspaper affirmed established facts that the Arabs and the Palestinians have not wasted time or missed any opportunities for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We also said that the international conference remains the only means for achieving a just solution; and the Arabs continue to seek peace based on the United Nations resolutions and those of the Fez Arab summit. We also pointed out that U.S.-Israeli negative stands and attitudes continue to obstruct the path of peace. These are not facts and are open for all to see. We must also point out that Egypt itself has been adhering to the idea of international conference as the only way for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict, and this clearly implies that the Camp David agreement has become extinct and there is no way of reviving it again. Needless to say that the Camp David accord brought about deep differences among Arab states, and it is this accord to which the United States and Israel are still clinging for the sake of perpetuating inter-Arab differences and causing more splits in Arab ranks. The Camp David accord is being employed by the U.S. and Israel as a lever to exert pressure on Egypt and to prevent it from returning to the Arab fold. We welcome President Mubarak's adherence to the idea of an international conference, and consider this position as truly in line with that of Jordan and pan-Arab consensus. We hope that this firm stand will help to bring about joint Arab action which is badly needed at this critical stage.

Al Dustour: Italy supports lasting peace

IN an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi said that his country supports Jordan's endeavours for attaining a just and durable peace in the Middle East that guarantees the return of Arab land to their legitimate owners. Italy had earlier and on different occasions expressed the same view about the Arab-Israeli conflict, and was a signatory of a declaration by the European Community countries in Venice, clearly stating Arab rights in their homeland. This Italian position has no doubt offered a meaningful contribution to efforts designed to resolve the Middle East issue. The Italian stand is a favourable response to the Arab Nation's position and the endeavours carried out by Jordan for the achievement of stability and peace. But as Italy and other European countries continue to show interest in the international conference, and offer support for a lasting peace, the United States remains captive of its traditional stand, and its bias towards Israel, something which has been obstructing all efforts for the attainment of a genuine peace.

West German Greens bite into SPD's shrinking share of vote

By Richard Williams
Reuters Staff

BONN — When West Germany's anti-NATO Greens party entered parliament four years ago in a blaze of publicity, some analysts predicted the often fractious and unconventional environmentalists would be little more than a passing phenomenon. But with opinion polls giving Europe's largest ecological movement between seven and 11 per cent of the vote in Sunday's general election, the Greens appear to have become a permanent fixture on the political scene to the detriment of the main opposition, the Social Democratic Party (SPD).

The SPD is campaigning in the unaccustomed position of fighting off a challenge from its left in the shape of the Greens, and the pollsters suggest that the upstart ecologists are siphoning off votes from the Social Democrats. "Every extra point the Greens win in this election will be at the expense of the SPD," predicted opinion pollster Klaus-Peter Schoepfer of the respected Emnid Market Research Institute.

The Greens entered parliament in 1983 with 5.6 per cent of the vote and the polls suggest they have gained support steadily, particularly among younger voters, after last year's nuclear reactor accident at Chernobyl and recent chemical pollution of the river Rhine.

Many of these younger voters would have previously supported the SPD, as the party's campaign manager Peter Giotz freely admits.

"In the 1970s the foundation of the Greens could have been averted if we had pursued more ecologically-oriented policies," Giotz told the weekly magazine *Spiegel*.

The SPD is expected to take around 37 per cent of the vote on Sunday, a clear 10 per cent behind Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) sister party, who are tipped to retain power in coalition with their Liberal Free Democrat (FDP) allies.

A year ago the SPD was performing confidently in regional elections and its candidate for the chancellorship, Johannes Rau, was ahead of Kohl in the personal popularity polls.

But despite adopting policies which call for the phasing out of nuclear power within 10 years and an eventual removal of all U.S. nuclear weapons from West German soil, the party has failed to win over many first-time voters.

Rau, himself, although personally popular, has failed to win the hearts and minds of the voters of many of his party's traditional

supporters outside north Rhine-Westphalia, where he is state premier.

Many SPD supporters have complained that the party has devoted too much time and advertising space to promoting Rau as a family man rather than explaining his policies, thus burdening him with the image of a lightweight in comparison to the SPD's last chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

Some 75 per cent of SPD voters questioned in an opinion poll last week said they would have preferred Schmidt, who held office between 1974 and 1982, to stand against Kohl this time instead of Rau.

Schmidt has now quit active politics. The party's close links with the trade unions have also damaged its standing after the virtual collapse of Western Europe's largest public housing concern, the union-owned Neue Heimat, which received some 18 billion marks (\$9.6 billion) of public subsidies.

But the SPD's major problem is the lack of a suitable coalition partner which would give it a parliamentary majority.

Rau has ruled out a coalition pact with the Greens, saying that they are incapable of taking part in any government.

The Greens for their part have said they are willing to enter into some form of cooperation with the Social Democrats should the two parties poll over 50 per cent of the vote, but have imposed conditions the SPD might find it impossible to accept.

The SPD's leftward drift since losing power appears to rule out any chance of an agreement with the FDP, its coalition partner between 1969 and 1982, which has said it will continue its alliance with Kohl.

Senior figures in the SPD are already voicing their thoughts on what direction the party should take if, as expected, they suffer a heavy defeat at the polls.

Some argue the party should move further to the left under the leadership of a figure like Saarland state Premier Oskar Lafontaine, and investigate the possibility of cooperation with the Greens in the 1990s.

For others the traditional appeal to the political centre, the area where West German elections are won and lost, beckons. The Greens, entertaining little serious hope of participating in government at federal level, can afford to take a more relaxed view of the future although some of their leaders believe the often irrelevant and squabbling movement must adopt a more serious profile.

For the short term, their aim is to become the first party to have more female than male deputies in the West German parliament after January 25.

Rifai details studies on railway project to Senate

(Continued from page 3)

law on the ARC extended the association's administration over all future railway extensions or new railway lines to be set up in the Kingdom. The ARC is currently responsible for operating the Hittieh-Aqaba railway line and the new modification to the law will enable the organisation to control the projected railway line between the location of the Shidieh phosphate mines, 60 kilometres south of Ma'an, and Jordan's Red Sea port city of Aqaba.

Actual work on the Shidieh mines, a long-term project which aims at tripling the annual production of 3,000 tonnes in 1991 to 9,000 tonnes by the turn of the century will start soon, according to recent press reports.

Officials in charge of the project earlier said that a proposed Shidieh-Aqaba railway would be the best method of transporting the rock phosphate. They added that such a link could become the nucleus of a national line to connect Jordan's north and south with other neighbouring countries.

Mr. Badran, who also is member of the Senate's legal committee, presented his reservations over the amendment to the ARC law, citing various reasons for his opposition to setting up the projected Aqaba-Shidieh link.

Mr. Badran, in his seven-point reasons for being against the link, said he based his remarks on studies obtained from the Finance Ministry, another study from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and another feasibility research conducted by the Greek company Intestra. Mr. Badran said that, according to the Finance Ministry study, the Intestra study did not refer to the Jordanian feasibility study for setting up such a link. He added that the present Hittieh-Aqaba railway link was costing the treasury lots of money since constant expenditure was needed to raise the line's transport capacity to 4.5 tonnes per annum.

Mr. Badran contended that, according to these studies, the Shidieh-Aqaba link would cost around JD 150 million, at an annual interest rate of 10 per cent. He said the annual profits of the projected mine would not exceed a total of JD 10 million per annum.

Referring to the Finance Ministry study on the link, Mr. Badran said it revealed that transporting rock phosphates via the link would increase the actual production cost by 116.6 per cent due to the involvement of trucks and the loading and unloading of the mineral and the shipping. He said he would maintain his rejection to the amendment until the feasibility of the link was determined.

Rifai replies to query

Mr. Rifai assured Senator Badran that no decision to set up such a link would be taken unless a comprehensive, finalised and completed feasibility study was conducted and the impact of the project on the national economy had been established.



The Upper House of Parliament in session on Wednesday (Petra photo)

In return, Mr. Badran thanked Mr. Rifai for his explanation. Following are major excerpts from Mr. Rifai's explanatory five-page address, which was forwarded to the House:

I will try to explain to the House some background about this subject to which Mr. Badran had objected:

1- It is well known that Jordan depends on two main mines for producing phosphates. These are: Al Wadi Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines. The minerals in these two mines will begin to run out as a result of increasing production of phosphates and so we started contemplating the idea of shifting our major production to the Shidieh mines which are close to Aqaba. In addition, all indications point to the fact that Jordan's production and exportation of the mineral and also the country's needs of phosphates will reach the 15 million tonnes mark annually in the coming 20 years.

2- An executive committee for the Shidieh mines has been set up and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company drew up contracts with the French company Soframin in 1982 to conduct a feasibility study on the Shidieh project. Since the Shidieh mines have no available transport links, several studies on transportation have been conducted including the following:

a. Using the existing railway line which links Al Abiad and Al Hassa mines with Aqaba, with additional rails between Batn Al Ghoul to Shidieh, a distance of 40 kilometres, but the project did not seem viable.

b. Using conveyor belts or suspended cars and or pumping through pipes. This also proved not to be feasible due to its high operational cost.

c. Using lorries. This too would be impractical when the production of phosphates from Shidieh increases and because the cost of maintaining a fleet of lorries will be high.

d. Using a wide railway which Soframin recommended in its report to the government in November 1986, suggesting that 239 kilometres of wide track be used to help transport phosphates from Wadi Al Abiad, Hassa and Shidieh to Aqaba. Several technical committees were set up

to conduct a study on the last proposal and to submit a report. 3- The government has been keen on providing means of transport for Shidieh phosphates to Aqaba and so it entrusted the Canadian Pacific company to conduct a study and to determine whether it would be more feasible to transport by lorry or by rail. The study is being done now as part of Canada's technical assistance programme to Jordan. In addition, the government is involved in talks with the World Bank on conducting a feasibility study on the use of wide gauge railway to link Aqaba with the rail network that links Syria with Turkey and Europe.

4- The idea of building modern and wide-gauge railways in Jordan emerged for the first time during the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Joint Committee in 1977. It was decided that the Jordanian government should conduct a feasibility study on the use of wide gauge railway to link Aqaba with the rail network that links Syria with Turkey and Europe.

5- I would like to reveal to your assembly all that has been achieved to date with the Greek Intestra company: a. Intestra informed the government of its willingness to take part in investments to set up a wide gauge railway linking the phosphate mines of Wadi Al Abiad, Al Hassa and Shidieh with Aqaba. The government in principle approved that Intestra conduct a financial and economic feasibility study on the offer in return for a guarantee of \$250,000 to the Jordanian government on behalf of Intestra.

The government maintained its right to reject the study without any commitments. Intestra gave us the guarantee and started the feasibility study.

b. Intestra handed over its study within the specified date and a technical committee was formed to assess the study. The government also mandated the West German company Dorch Consult to assess the Greek study. c. The technical public committee asked its members to hand over its remarks on the study and the Ministry of Finance and the JPMC were parties who made their comments. After finalising all opinions of these various representatives, a report was

handed over to Intestra for further verification on certain points raised by the technical committee's report. Intestra was also given the remarks of the West German consultants. We are presently waiting for Intestra's new study, which has taken into consideration all the technical committee's queries.

d. In view of Intestra's new study, we will decide whether or not we shall continue cooperation. However, if the government refuses Intestra's final study, this does not mean that we shall cancel the idea of the project regarding the wide-gauge railway, since Intestra's study only related to its view points as an investment company in the scheme and not its ideas of the plan's economic feasibility.

e. I would like to assure you that a huge project such as this cannot be based on a political decision since it is a large investment scheme. It should and will depend on comprehensive and thorough feasibility studies. This is exactly what we are doing now since the companies Soframin, Canadian Pacific and Intestra are presently studying the project from all its aspects.

6- As far as the future of phosphate is concerned, it shall remain a main source for our national income. We shall always aim at increasing and offering new variations of the mineral's derivatives. The phosphate and chemical industries shall always remain a major venue for increasing our foreign currency savings.

7- Last, but not least, the amendment to the draft law on the ARC does not deal with the feasibility of any project but gives the organisation responsibilities over administering and supervising any future railway link. Approving the amendment does not mean endorsing the projected link. The government has not asked the Parliament to approve the proposed project.

Given reasons for prompting the amendment have clearly stated that there is a plan to set up new railway lines in Aqaba such as the Shidieh-Aqaba link. And, as I have mentioned, no decision will be made on setting up any railway link if the scheme's feasibility and effect on the Jordanian economy has not been determined.

Arch foes at loggerheads in Korean 'war of the dams'

By Oh Ilson
Reuters

SONGJONGJIA, South Korea — Water has become the latest weapon in the bitter war of words between North and South Korea.

The Seoul government accuses the Communist North of building a colossal dam six miles across the demilitarized zone with the ultimate intention of breaching it to back a military attack.

Seoul says this would unleash 20 billion tonnes of water that could drown a third of South Korea's 42 million people and wreak havoc in its industrial heartland.

Pyeongyang denies that its new dam, begun last January, has an offensive role. It accuses the south of mounting a scare campaign to divert attention from domestic political problems.

"All of us standing here would drown if the enemy broke his dam," a South Korean army

officer told journalists in a recent briefing on a heavily guarded hilltop near this village 100 kilometres north-east of Seoul.

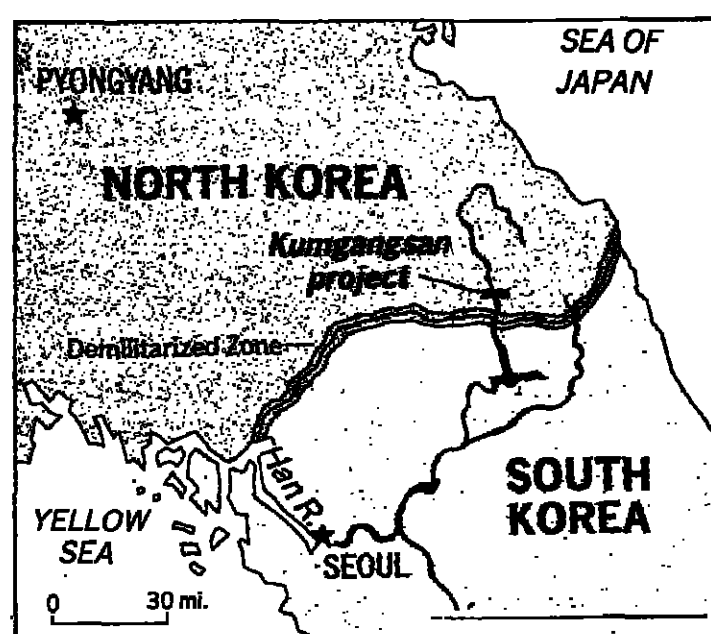
"Maybe we should build a Noah's ark if we are to survive the deluge," Lieutenant-Colonel Park Tong-Myung said wryly.

More seriously, he added: "A dam should be built near here as soon as possible to counter the North Korean threat."

In fact work will start within a few months on what the South Koreans call their "peace dam" to avert the alleged threat from the north's dam, which is being built at Kungangsan on the Han river upstream from the South Korean capital.

The southern dam is designed to contain floodwaters released by the north deliberately or accidentally. It would be slightly shorter than the giant Grand Coulee dam in the United States but a quarter as high again.

These, according to Seoul, are



the comparative statistics of the two dams:

	North	South
Height:	215 metres/710 feet	220 metres/730 feet
Width:	unspecified	1,200 metres/4,000 feet
Capacity:	20 billion tonnes	20 billion tonnes
Completion date:	1996	1994-5

would be only 4.7 billion tonnes. A South Korean ministerial committee under Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong is co-ordinating its \$700 million project. A public campaign has already raised over \$60 million.

Public rallies were held in Seoul last year condemning "the

Communist's heinous plot to murder the whole nation by the water bomb offensive" and thousands of southerners still queue up every day to give money for the "peace dam."

Seoul paints an apocalyptic picture of the destructive power of the northern dam. Information Minister Lee Woong-Hee says it has created the tensest situation since the north invaded the south at the start of the Korean war in 1950.

But military officials here say South Korea has ruled out the use of force to stop the northern dam project.

In the south's view breaching of the dam would cause as much damage as a nuclear attack, devastating almost the whole of the capital and vast areas in the heartland of this rapidly industrialising country.

Loss of lives and property would be far greater than in the Korean war, in which more than three million people died.

Even if the dam were not breached, Seoul says, it would cut by one-fifth the flow of Han river water to the south, causing se-

rious shortages for consumers, farmers and industry and fatally damaging the ecological system of the Han valley.

The southern dam will lie largely empty for much of the time but officials say it will be used to generate power and for irrigation whenever possible to help offset its huge cost.

According to a presidential spokesman, construction will keep pace with that of the northern dam, to ensure national security while not overspending unnecessarily.

But Seoul would view even an incomplete northern dam as a threat, saying that its reservoir would impound enough water by next year to seriously damage facilities for the Olympic games in Seoul in the autumn of 1988.

So far no government or international body has made an independent assessment of the conflicting claims by the two bitterly hostile Korean states.

"We monitor the situation very closely but do not make any comment," a United States embassy spokesman said.

Randa Hagib's

Stray letters

A letter I received recently left me with a certain sense of continuity and a smile on my face.

It was not from a secret admirer, nor from a dear friend. In fact the letter is not even addressed to me and I never opened it. But receiving it convinced me that errors occasionally committed by our post office system are really international in nature.

For if in Jordan post office, officials think that Casablanca is in France, Zurich in Austria, and Bern in Germany, and when the post office receipts are made in the name of "Mr. Attention," and when one pays different fees for the same service or for identical parcels sent to the same country — without getting any logical explanation in return — and when post office box numbers are mixed up and when people receive other people's mail, when all this happens here, rest assured that such "things" happen elsewhere.

The letter I am telling you about was sent by a certain Millers of New York, to (apparently) their friends Mr. and Mrs. Odell Jordan, in Columbus, Ohio. But instead of finding its way in the U.S., the letter travelled all the way to Jordan. Simple — the family name Jordan was taken for the country, and typically, when the letter reached Amman nobody seems to have noticed the words "Columbus," "Ohio," and the letter automatically found its way to Box 3219, Amman.

The Millers of New York will hopefully receive their letter as I have mailed it back to them. Meanwhile, nobody should blame us for enjoying this mail slip up made by the American post office.

Vietnam movie, 'Platoon,' draws criticism, praise

By William M. Welch
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "Platoon," the latest and perhaps most powerful of Vietnam war movies, is bringing back sharp memories of the controversial conflict — and the same kind of division among Americans.

Numbness was the common reaction among those invited to a special Washington premiere of the new film. As with the war, the movie appears destined for controversy, but there was no debate over its intense impact.

"It probably was as emotionally draining an experience as I've had," said Senator Tom Daschle, vice chairman of the Caucus of Vietnam-Era Veterans in Congress.

"When I came out I felt a little ashamed," said Bob Moran, a double-amputee who now works with the paralysed veterans of America. "I didn't stay for the credits."

The movie, which is just opening around the country, is the film of the Vietnam experience many veterans say they've been waiting for — one written and directed by a Vietnam vet, Oliver Stone.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, the service organisation chartered by congress, sponsored the showing Wednesday night along with Daschle's group, Vietnam-Era Veterans in Congress.

When it was over, grown men were crying. Some left hurriedly. Others sat motionless in their seats. Almost no one talked.

The movie crams many of the stories of the war's brutality and atrocities into its two hours. U.S. soldiers killing civilians, raping and terrorising children, smoking marijuana, and fighting or "fragging" killing among themselves.

It is climaxed by a firefight in which the enemy overruns the U.S. firebase. A survivor tries to make sense of it all.

It is a brutal movie, but also one in which the soldiers also were victims, dehumanised and brutalised by the war, the fear and the circumstances. They step off the plane as fresh-faced kids and days later, outraged by the enemy's killing of their own, are killing villagers by gun, grenade and hand.

"I just loved it — it was so real," said Jan Scruggs, the man who started and directed the successful drive to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. "It captured a lot of the Vietnam experience that a lot

of vets had tried to forget.

"One thing I couldn't believe when I got over there was seeing GIs throwing rocks at civilians," Scruggs said. "But in six or eight months, I was doing the same thing. I didn't kill anyone — I couldn't live with that."

U.S. representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, the Mississippi conservative who is chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, didn't like the message he saw.

"I went over there seven times during the war and six times after, working on the MIA (missing-in-action) issue," Montgomery said. "I just didn't find the American soldier of that brutality, and I went to these firebases and talked to the infantrymen."

"I think the entertainment, the show, was well done. But as far as being that factual, I don't think that portrays the American soldier I saw over there. ... I guess the bottom line would be it was not quite fair to the American who served in Vietnam."

Many Vietnam veterans who saw the movie acknowledged there would be split opinions among themselves.

Moran joined the infantry at 19 and served as a point man in search-and-destroy mission. A land mine blew his legs off.

"I am your average, mid-America GI Joe," he said. "and now 17 years later there's a film that says what I was all about and shows GIs smoking dope and shooting their own people. I just didn't like that portrayal."

"I don't want to have that kind of label attached to me," he said. "Bob Moran was not that way."

Richard Fuller, also a legislative director at the PVA, said the combat seemed as real as could be. "I liked it, yet it wasn't a movie you like," he said.

While most have to see it. Vietnam veterans have been generally positive in their reaction to the movie, said Ken Berez, associated director of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. He said he expects an upsurge in veterans seeking help at various counseling centres as a result of the movie.

He said the more appropriate audience, however, is a younger generation whose view of Vietnam is the "rambo" superhero depiction, or the surreal and symbolic approaches of other Vietnam pictures.

"It reminds us all that whether we were there or not, this is what happened 15, 20 years ago," he said.

Laws few, moral dilemmas many in enforcing surrogate contracts

By Michael Fleeman
The Associated Press

HACKENSACK, New Jersey — A controversy over custody of a baby born to a surrogate mother has created a highly publicised court case in America that has lawyers and judges searching for precedents and many others raising ethical questions about the procedure.

During the past two weeks, the issue has been the focus of a landmark court case in the state of New Jersey. The case involves a surrogate mother and the couple who hired her for \$10,000. They are battling for custody of the child, now 10 months old.

Superior court judge Harvey R. Sorkow, presiding over the non-jury trial, is the first in the nation asked to rule on the validity of a surrogate parenting contract. He also is to consider custody of the child.

Sorkow has little legal precedent from which to work. And while his decision will be binding only in New Jersey, attorneys believe the effects will be felt nationwide.

"This case will make an impact

on many states — especially those that are leaning in the direction of regulating this practice, and even those that aren't," said Dr. Doris Freed, co-chairwoman of the New York State Bar (attorney) Association's surrogate parenting committee.

The issue is as old as the Bible. When Sarah was unable to give her husband a child, Abraham impregnated a handmaiden. The arrangement didn't sit well with some people then, especially with the handmaiden, and not much has improved since then, say attorneys and others familiar with surrogate mothering.

The growing popularity of surrogate mothering — a relatively simple procedure — has outpaced the courts and legislatures, creating moral and legal confusion.

Statistics are difficult to find. But by most estimates, about 500 babies have been born to surrogate mothers in the United States in the past decade. Last year, there were about 65.

With an estimated 15 per cent to 20 per cent of American couples meeting the medical definition of infertility, the option of

surrogate motherhood is becoming increasingly attractive, Ms. Freed said.

"For couples who can't have children, this seems to be the only hope," she said.

No state has passed a law regulating surrogate motherhood. "To regulate is to legalise, and states aren't ready to do that yet," Ms. Freed said.

Over the weekend, the American Bar Association family law section sought to develop a model law on surrogate parenting. But the group decided to wait till the New Jersey case is settled.

Dr. William Pierce, president of the National Committee for Adoption, said the organisation finds surrogate motherhood "inhuman" because it forces mothers to give up their children.

"The committee opposes surrogate mothering as a method of obtaining a child and is strongly of the opinion that the practice should be outlawed," Pierce said.

Others have argued that the practice exploits poor women who enter into a surrogate contract — usually with well-to-do couples — only because they need money.

In the New Jersey case, Mary Beth Whitehead, a 29-year-old

housewife, agreed to bear a child for William Stern, a biochemist, and his wife, Elizabeth, a 41-year-old pediatrician.

Under the contract arranged by the Infertility Centre of New York, the couple was to pay Mrs. Whitehead \$10,000 to be artificially inseminated with Stern's sperm. The Sterns planned to adopt the infant.

But after giving birth March 27, Mrs. Whitehead and her husband, Richard, changed their mind and refused to turn the child over to the Sterns, triggering the bitter court case. The Whiteheads have received no money.

The Sterns' attorneys have argued that everyone entered into the contract in good faith and that Mrs. Whitehead reneged.

But the Whiteheads' attorneys contend the contract should be declared invalid. Attorney Harold J. Cassidy said, "There are some things money can't buy."

The few decisions by courts across the country appear to disagree with this claim, Ms. Freed said. Ms. Freed, who has lectured

and written about the subject, said that in the state of Kentucky, for example, the state supreme court ruled in 1986 that surrogate motherhood was not the same as baby selling, a practice prohibited in some form in all states.

Also, the Michigan appellate court ruled in 1981 that payment to a surrogate mother was not the same as buying a baby.

That was contradicted in Oklahoma, where the attorney general issued a 1983 opinion saying a surrogate contract is against state public policy. The matter, however, has not gone to court.

As for the rights of surrogate mothers, only four — including Mrs. Whitehead — have asked for their babies back, said Noel Keane, director of the Infertility Centre of New York.

All but the current case were settled out of court, he said.

The New Jersey case was adjourned Friday for two weeks while attorneys prepare for the custody phase. Sorkow will rule on the contract's validity and on the custody question at the end of the trial's second part, expected to last three to six weeks.

For India's airline whiz-kid the sky's the limit

By Chaitanya Kalbag
Reuters

NEW DELHI — When Harsh Vardhan was asked to pull India out of a steep dive in 1980, old-timers told the then 24-year-old management graduate it would take him at least five years just to understand his job.

Three years later, after a dramatic turnaround in the national flag-carrier's fortunes, Vardhan was presented with his next challenge — nursing India's wobbling feeder airline Vayudoot.

Last month Vayudoot, which has a total staff of 450, was voted the world's fastest-growing airline at the Farnborough air show, but Vardhan is not content.

"We have leapfrogged from seven to 61 stations. Our revenues have shown a 150 per cent growth over the past year," the diminutive Vardhan told Reuters.

"But we aim to connect 80 small towns by December, and put a hundred on our map by March."

Publicly-owned Vayudoot was launched in January 1981 to link little-known towns, mainly in India's hilly and inaccessible north-east.

The third-level airline operated with ancient Fokker-27 turboprops borrowed from the domestic carrier Indian Airlines.

Vardhan says he took control of Vayudoot from an Indian Airlines pilot who was more interested in his retirement benefits than the growth of the fledgling carrier.

"Aviation experts joked that Vayudoot — which means 'messenger of the wind' — would soon be blown off the map," Vardhan said. "I set out to prove them wrong."

He said he decided to ignore Vayudoot's red-inked balance sheet and concentrate on growth.

"We were operating the most cost-inefficient aircraft and trying to penetrate into new markets," he said. "We needed a marketing breakthrough."

After a series of market surveys, Vayudoot launched an aggressive advertising campaign to let people know it existed.

Vardhan also commissioned a study of more than 200 disused airfields built by India's colonial British rulers during World War II, and discovered most of them were potential Vayudoot destinations.

Earlier this year the airline launched an ambitious night air-mail service — an idea welcomed by businessmen.

Vardhan also announced a "rent-a-plane" scheme for business travellers, and package tours that promised middle-class tourists low fares that included overland transport and hotels. He also gave discounts to students.

In an attempt to lure low-budget travellers, Vayudoot offered rock-bottom, off-season fares to exotic destinations such as hill resorts in winter, and north-eastern towns in heavy monsoon rains.

"There is a huge, totally untapped market among middle-income groups," Vardhan said. "We decided to aim at people who have never travelled by air before and want to experience luxury at affordable prices."

Vayudoot also ushered in an unprecedented boom in small-town economies. "At least 12 new hotels have opened in the hill resort town of Kulu in Himachal Pradesh state," Vardhan said.

"Businessmen are willing to set up industries in interior areas because they can get there faster now. The cost of local produce has also come down because we can fly perishable commodities to larger city markets."

With Vardhan at its controls, Vayudoot's turnover quadrupled — from 20 million rupees (\$1.6 million) in 1982 to 82 million rupees (\$6.5 million) last year.

The airline also came to the rescue of India's swelling ranks of unemployed pilots by recruiting 80.

Much of the expansion was due to the acquisition last year of ten West German-designed Dornier-228, 18-seater planes.

"The Dorniers set us back by more than 200 million rupees (\$16 million)," Vardhan said. "We suffered a loss last year. But growth was everything."

He said the fortunes of the small airline also depended on the vagaries of the Indian weather — shooting up in summer, when school vacations started, and slumping during the rains.

Although Vayudoot offers some of the lowest fares in Asia, it also faces competition from road transport.

Vayudoot is negotiating with Japan Airlines and All India to launch "specific interest grids" which will whisk package tourists from an international airport to historical Buddhist shrines, wildlife sanctuaries — or even a breathtaking bird's eye view of Himalayan peaks.

Woman to pedal plane-powered plane in record attempt

By John Pine
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — A pedal-pushing woman pilot is aiming to propel an odd-looking aircraft to a record flight for a human-powered plane.

Pilot Lois McCallin is scheduled to climb into the bubble-like cockpit of the Michelob Light Eagle as early as Wednesday and attempt to fly it around a triangular, 50 kilometres course at Edward Air Force Base, the world's leading test flight centre.

If successful, McCallin would eclipse the previous distance record for human-powered flight of 36.2 kilometres set by Bryan Allen when he piloted the Gossamer Albatross across the English Channel on June 12, 1979, in two hours and 49 minutes.

The Eagle will land in the same dry lakebed where last month Voyager ended its historic round-the-world non-stop flight.

Like Voyager, the Eagle is made of the latest light-weight materials and incorporates innovative design concepts. It has made more than a dozen short test flights over the past three weeks.

"We've got our fingers crossed," said John Langford, a 29-year-old graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) who is directing the project. "If we get more rain, that could end the whole thing right there."

Rain set the flight back a week, and the \$195,000 budget underwritten by the Anheuser-Busch Brewery runs out at the end of the month, when the project volunteers must return to their schools or jobs.

Langford said the Eagle flight, which is expected to last about two hours, would be just a test run for a far more ambitious mission. Even if the record is not broken, MIT students and engineers should learn enough to go ahead with the next phase of the project.

The MIT team who designed and built the Eagle, which weighs about 40 kg and has a wingspan of 34 metres, hopes to use data from the flight to build a still lighter, more sophisticated craft to be called Daedalus.

Either McCallin, a 30-year-old computer programming analyst from Boston who competes in endurance-testing triathlons, or another pilot, will attempt to fly

Daedalus 111 kilometres from the Mediterranean island of Crete to mainland Greece, skimming over the waves.

That attempt, to be launched from the edge of a 915-metre-high cliff, may be made as early as next autumn but more likely will take place early next year, if a sponsor is found to cover the estimated \$400,000 cost.

In a 3,500-year-old myth, the master craftsman Daedalus constructed wings of wax, feather and thread so that he and his son Icarus could escape from Crete, ruled by the evil king Minos.

Icarus flew too close to the sun, which melted the wax in his wings and caused him to plunge to his death into the sea, but according to the legend, Daedalus reached safely in Greece.

The initial research phase on Eagle was co-sponsored by MIT and the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington. Each contributed \$35,000.

Eagle, which arrived at Edwards on a flat-bed truck on the same day that Voyager pilots Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager touched down to complete their record-breaking flight, is the third

human-powered plane the MIT group has constructed and flown.

McCallin, who read about the project in a Boston newspaper, volunteered for the challenge.

At 1.68 metres and 55 kilograms she was the ideal size for the venture. Her hobby of competing in triathlons, in which contestants swim 3.9 kilometres, cycle 180 kilometres and finish by running a marathon, was perfect training.

A second pilot, Glenn Tremml, who is also a triathlete, was brought in as a back-up. The 26-year-old medical student has had far less training time and would fly the Eagle only if McCallin was ill or suffered an injury.

The key to Eagle's featherlike weight is the use of a light-weight skeleton of carbon fibres embedded in epoxy resin. The ribs and the leading edges of the wings are composed of a plastic foam similar to that used in packaging.

Overall, the Eagle will have 50 per cent more strength and will fly 30 per cent faster than the present record-holder, the Gossamer Albatross, and will use 15 per cent less energy.

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Davis Cup hero upsets Noah in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Pat Cash, still riding high after clinching tennis' prestigious Davis Cup for Australia last month, added the illustrious scalp of French number one Yannick Noah to his collection Wednesday.

Cash, seeded 11th in the \$1.7 million Australian Open, earned a semifinal against world number one Ivan Lendl with a 6-4, 6-2, 2-6, 6-0 victory over the third seed.

On grasscourt form, Noah was the underdog. But Cash's admission at a press conference later that he suffered from a virus last week and had little energy for practice suggested Noah had a better chance than he perhaps believed.

Top seed Lendl, the Czechoslovak who is still seeking his first grasscourt title, beat Swedish ninth seed Anders Jarryd 7-6, 6-1, 6-3 and defending champion Stefan Edberg battered sixth-seeded Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir into submission 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Boris Becker's conqueror, Australian Wally Masur, triumphed in the clash of unseeded quarter-finalists,

beating New Zealander Kelly Evernden 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 to line up a semifinal against the fourth-seeded Edberg.

Becker, the second seed, was back in the news despite his exit Tuesday. The Wimbledon champion was fined \$2,000 for three code violations during his fourth-round match against Masur.

His manager Ion Tiriac said he would appeal against part of the fine — a \$500 penalty for receiving coaching. He said he did not dispute the rest of the fine for displays of temper.

Cash, ranked 24th in the world, 20 places below Noah, never looked troubled by the Frenchman, overcoming a spell of poor serving in the third set to whitewash Noah in the fourth.

Noah served successive double-faults to bring up break point in the second game of the fourth set. From there his serve deteriorated quickly.

"I didn't serve well enough to challenge him or to be a threat," said Noah, whose performances here have been his best on grass.

Cash, who has lost to Lendl on all of their four previous meetings, including twice on grass, said he had been hit by a virus last week.

"I was exhausted and sleeping 15 hours a day. I hardly practised at all," he said.

Cash said he was playing better than when he last met Lendl in October, but added: "I can't say I'm super-confident."

Edberg, who beat fellow-Swede Mats Wilander at the last open in

1985 to win his first Grand Slam singles crown, punished Mecir, who beat him at Wimbledon, with the power and precision of his serving and volleying.

Mecir tried to out-rally Edberg from the baseline and it proved fatal.

"I served very well and it was the key to my game," Edberg said of the 17-minute encounter.

In Edberg's only previous meeting with Masur, the Australian held two match points against him in a five-set, fourth-round match at the last open.

Lendl now has seven career wins from eight matches against Jarryd and, after criticising having to play his last two matches on outside courts, expressed content with his form.

"I'm winning and not making too many errors," he said. "I'm confident as I'm playing better than I was at the end of Wimbledon last year."

Bosch quits as Becker's coach

HAMBURG, West Germany (AP) — Guenther Bosch has quit as the coach of no. 2-ranked Boris Becker after the West German tennis star's surprising early elimination in the Australian Open, the Bild newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bild said Bosch apparently was angered over Becker's approach to preparing for the Australian Open and the 19-year-old's temper tantrums during his loss Tuesday to unseeded Wally Masur of Australia.

"I can no longer accept the type of attitude with which Boris prepared for this tournament," Bild quoted Bosch as saying in an interview in Melbourne, Australia, after Becker's elimination.

Bosch, 48, "is quitting" as coach of the two-time Wimbledon singles champion, Bild reported.

Kankkunen keeps lead in Monte Carlo Rally

MONTE CARLO (R) — West German Walter Roehrl, past master of the Monte Carlo Rally, recorded his first timed stage win Wednesday but Finnish world champion Juha Kankkunen and Lancia team-mate Massimo Biasion maintained their domination.

Roehrl made the right tyre choice on the first dry stretch of this 55th Monte Carlo Rally and drove his Audi 200 Quattro home ahead of Finnish rival Kankkunen, who in turn gained a 39-second edge over Italian Biasion.

The West German chose a mixture of 40 to 80 per cent snow tyres on the opening timed section of the penultimate day's programme from gap to Monaco, which was dry with icy patches.

But the Lancias reasserted their dominance in the next timed section contested in the snow and ice which have prevailed since the race began last weekend.

Biasion beat Kankkunen for first place, reducing the Finn's overall lead to 29 seconds.

Roehrl remained third nearly six minutes adrift as Lancia looked set to deny him an unprecedented fifth Monte Carlo Rally triumph, barring disaster before Thursday's finish.

Haysman, Dyson rescue rebel cricketers

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — Fighting centuries by Michael Haysman and John Dyson pulled Australia's rebel cricketers from the brink of defeat and set up an outside chance of victory in the third five-day match against South Africa Wednesday.

Although Dyson fell shortly before the close for 101, the Australians had recovered well to be on 254 for five in their second innings, a lead of 168 going into the final day. Haysman was undefeated on 110 with new batsman Graham Yallop on one.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Prince Abdullah presented championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, was presented Jordan's driving championship for 1986 by the general manager of the Royal Automobile Club (RAC), Derek Ledger, at a ceremony held at the RAC premises on Tuesday night. Second place was awarded to Nabil Karam; third place, to George Khayyat. Also at the ceremony, Mr. Ledger announced that Prince Abdullah had been granted a 2nd category rallying licence from FISA, the international rallying governing body. In his acceptance remarks, Prince Abdullah said that "rallying has come a long way in Jordan, and has helped Jordan gain international sports recognition."

FIFA aids earthquake victims

MEXICO CITY (R) — FIFA, the international governing body of soccer, will donate \$1.3 million for aid to victims of the September 1985 earthquake here, officials said. The officials said FIFA President Joao Havelange would present the money to President Miguel de La Madrid Wednesday. The money was raised from profits from last year's World Cup tournament held in Mexico and partly from a benefit match in California, officials said. The money will be used to help build housing for the quake victims, many of whom are still living in temporary shelters 16 months after the devastating quake.

Britain's biggest race-day announced

ASCOT, England (AP) — In a bid to prevent Europe's top thoroughbreds seeking prize money in the United States and Japan, horse race breeders have organised Britain's richest ever race day, with some £630,000 (\$945,000) going on a five-race card towards the end of next season. Sir John Astor, chairman of the newly-formed supporters of British horseracing, said the Sept. 26 card will be known as the festival of British racing. "We cannot compete with U.S. prize money, but we are following their example," Astor said. "We are in competition with Breeders' Cup day in so far as it should be an incentive for European horses to stay here instead of going to the U.S. and to Japan for their autumn campaigns." Centrepiece of the card will be the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes — a one-mile (1.6-kilometre) race for three-year-olds and over — which will have total prize money of £240,000 (\$360,000).

Jailed rallyists return home

LONDON (AP) — Two British rally drivers, who were held for nine days in a North African jail over a currency mix-up, returned home Tuesday saying they were "exhausted and relieved." World hot-rod champion Barry Lee and Toleman team member Mike Magee, whose car was forced out of the Paris-Dakar Rally because of mechanical trouble, were detained by Algerian border authorities when they were found to be holding more money than they had declared on entering the country. "It was very grim and I was absolutely terrified. We are very, very pleased to be back," Lee said on arrival at London's Heathrow Airport. He said he bore no malice towards the Algerian authorities. "It was a genuine mix-up. We hope to return in three months time to prepare for next year's rally," he said.

Border to let loose Taylor, Matthews

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Test spinners Peter Taylor and Greg Matthews will be let loose against England in the World Series Cup clash on the Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday after their top effort against the West Indians in Melbourne. The SOG was the brilliant launching pad at fifth test time for the wiles of Taylor, who humbled England in the Tourists' second innings with a wicket haul of 6-78 while Matthews was 12th man.

THE Daily Crossword by C. F. Murray

ACROSS	1 Smooth	17 Out of the	34
5 Searches	18 Out of the	35	
10 Monkey	19 Out of the	36	
14 Out of the	20 Out of the	37	
15 Manifest	21 Out of the	38	
16 Catalogue	22 Out of the	39	
17 Cartoon bubble	23 Out of the	40	
18 Sun, Cal.	24 Out of the	41	
19 Super Paul	25 Out of the	42	
20 Dorothy Sayers	26 Out of the	43	
21 Kismet	27 Out of the	44	
22 Rejoice	28 Out of the	45	
23 Cain	29 Out of the	46	
24 Haven	30 Out of the	47	
25 Wandering bird	31 Out of the	48	
26 Ranges garb	32 Out of the	49	
27 Help	33 Out of the	50	
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44 Baseball no.	44 Out of the	61	
45 Eugene O'Neill	45 Out of the	62	
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172 Johnson	172 Out of the	189	
173 Cowardly Lion	173 Out of the	190	
174 portyer	174 Out of the	191	
175 Legal holding	175 Out of the	192	
176 Blenched	176 Out of the	193	
177 Miners' guests	177 Out of the	194	
178 Agent for	178 Out of the	195	
179 short	179 Out of the	196	
180 Zeno's porch	180 Out of the	197	
181 Broadway org.	181 Out of the	198	
182 Cup	182 Out of the	199	
183 Sherbet and	183 Out of the	200	
184 sorbet	184 Out of the	201	
185 Fender mishap	185 Out of the	202	
186 Washer cycle	186 Out of the	203	
187 Requested	187 Out of the	204	
188 Comedian	188 Out of the	205	
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226 Legal holding	226 Out of the	243	
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232 Broadway org.	232 Out of the	249	
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235 sorbet			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5190/5200	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3580/85	Canadian dollars
	1.8490/8500	West German marks
	2.0840/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5500/10	Swiss francs
	38.38/43	Belgian francs
	6.1700/50	French francs
	131.4/131.5	Italian lire
	153.90/154.00	Japanese yen
	6.5825/75	Swedish crowns
	7.1400/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0100/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	407.60/408.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Rumours that Burton is to be investigated by the U.K. government sent an already depressed market sharply lower in trading late Wednesday afternoon, dealers said. By 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index had slumped 21.2 points to 1,757.7.

Burton said there was no basis for the fears of an inquiry into alleged misconduct during its successful takeover bid for Debenhams in 1985. U.K. Trade Department officials said they had no knowledge of such an investigation.

But dealers said with the market already reeling from recent disclosures about the Guinness battle for distillers, it was no surprise that operators were sensitive to such rumours.

Dealers said there is now a feeling in the market that any of the major companies involved in contested takeover battles in the last couple of years could be subject to rumours such as those have which hit Burton Wednesday.

"It's really sapping morale," one dealer said, adding, "the last thing we want now is another Guinness style situation."

Shares had been depressed in early trading by Tuesday's resignations at Morgan Grenfell and news BTR is not to pursue its £1.16 billion bid for Pilkington.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today there are some difficulties in putting your ambitions across. It's time to build up your vitality and to avoid asking favors from influential people.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try to be of assistance to those associates who are having problems now. Enjoy some hobby with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be most careful in whatever activities you engage in. Avoid a tiff with a fellow worker today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Avoid arguments during the day, whether business or pleasure. Try to make your surroundings more charming.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get out today and avoid friction at home. Take some deserving friends out to a fine restaurant.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may feel depressed during the day and feel you are not accomplishing much, but cheer up tonight. Be happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't commit yourself financially. Enjoy worthwhile activities and avoid unpleasant conditions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into cheerful activities and steer clear of trouble. Plan how to rid yourself of money problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel frustrated and want to do something drastic, but take it easy. The evening can be very enjoyable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A friend who is usually reliable is too busy now, so don't rely on this person. Settle your own affairs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be wise in the business world and improve your standing there. Go after pleasure in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You want to get into new interests during the daytime, but you make little progress. Wait for a better time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may be lured over a bill or some other practical matter. Wait for new ideas on how to handle this issue.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she may be a bit selfish and demanding during the early youth, so teach this one to work and build up the character thusly. Later your progeny will appreciate the needs of others and will be helpful, too. Permit this one to participate in sports.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 23, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today brings the need to double-check whatever comes to your attention, whether it's the written or spoken word. Be aware of the romantic needs of your loved one.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Keep out of an argument between your mate and a friend and it will soon cease. Be as charming as you can.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A mundane affair can cause you some worry. Make up your mind to get along well with stubborn persons.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A message from far away could disturb you if you don't take it in stride. Use your magnetism today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Figure out how much entertainment will cost and then choose whatever is within your means.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The evening is ideal for inviting worthwhile guests into your home. This can lead to an interesting alliance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't make any changes in your routine. Take time to visit those friends you count among the best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your property improved. Listen to the needs of your mate. Don't spend too much money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You do not agree with kin over some important affair but say nothing for the time being.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Do not send that message that could cause others much trouble. Solve the problem wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A wise friend gives good advice which you may not appreciate yet. Avoid one who wastes your time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) What you desire does not work well today, so plan your time for other things. Make a new contact.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You get new ideas that need further study before you can make them work. Forget mundane tasks today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a great thirst for knowledge and would be most unhappy if taken away from studies. One who can easily make friends with persons who are highly educated. Try to give your progeny all the educational advantages that you can afford.

China drums up central planning

PEKING (Agencies) — China Wednesday warned of danger signals in the economy and communist hardliners prominently stressed the importance of central planning following the removal of reformist Communist Party chief, Mr. Hu Yaobang.

Mr. Hu resigned in disgrace last Friday because he had pushed for political reforms that were unacceptable and for supporting "bourgeois liberalism," acting party chief, Mr. Zhao Ziyang, was quoted as telling a Hungarian delegation on Monday.

"Bourgeois liberalism" is a phrase used to denounce ideas inspired by Western-style democracy such as multi-party systems and freedom of speech.

The official economic daily Wednesday warned that China must cut consumer spending and that people's desire for high-quality goods the country could not afford was dangerous.

In a tough editorial, it said that incomes in 1984 and 1985 rose faster than national output and productivity and this forced factories to put up prices to pay their bills.

"Everyone should not expect material benefit from every aspect of the economic reforms," it said.

The editorial followed remarks by deputies to China's parliament, the National People's Congress, on Monday that the state plan and "guiding ideology" were vital to the economy.

The economic reforms of the past few years, which Mr. Hu strongly supported, have reduced the role of central planning at the expense of market forces, but hardliners in the party are known to want to return to more centralized control.

"Stimulating demand is impractical," the People's Daily quoted one of the deputies as saying. "We must not deny state directives, especially the state plan" in the economy, he said.

Western diplomats say they expect no major changes in economic policy immediately as a result of the recent political leadership changes, but added that they were watching closely for signs that party hardliners were on the ascendancy.

The new stress on Marxist orthodoxy in economics follows that in the cultural field.

The People's Daily Wednesday quoted Culture Minister Wang Meng as saying that writers must toe the party line in the present campaign against bourgeois liberalism.

"Efforts must be made to oppose, criticize and clear away literary works praising bourgeois liberalisation and of inferior level, vulgar taste and decadent nature," Mr. Wang said.

On Tuesday, top leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping, said China's dealings with the outside world must be expanded, and expressed confidence that his socialist government, now combating internal dissension, can withstand any external contacts.

Mr. Deng's statements, in a meeting with Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, were his latest efforts to assure the world that China's economic reforms and open-door policy are not endangered by the current political campaign to root out Western liberalism.

Mr. Deng told Mr. Mugabe, "if there are any shortcomings in implementing our open policy, the main one is that China needs further opening."

He said opening to the rest of the world will not affect China's socialist system because China's policies are correct.

"We also educate our people to adhere to the four cardinal principles, and one of them is adherence to the socialist road. This provides a fundamental guarantee," he said.

The other three principles are support for the Communist Party, the people's democratic dictatorship and Marxist-Leninist-Mao Tse-Tung thought.

Meanwhile, China issued regulations Tuesday allowing foreign-owned productive enterprises to export Chinese products to make up for shortages of foreign exchange.

The provisions allow businesses "in temporary difficulty" to buy only the amount of Chinese goods needed to earn foreign exchange for production and operation costs, to remit stipulated profits or to settle accounts after the business closes, the Xinhua News Agency said.

The businesses can either export the products themselves or entrust Chinese trade corporations to export for them, Xinhua reported.

The report said the provisions are the fourth in a series of detailed rules for enforcing a 22-article set of foreign investment regulations issued last October by the state council.

Those regulations, restricted primarily to foreign enterprises producing for export and those bringing in advanced technology, promised more tax breaks, access to bank loans, priority in obtaining water and other resources, and a channel for appealing locally imposed fees and rules.

West German central bank may cut interest rate today

FRANKFURT (R) — Frankfurt banking sources said Wednesday West Germany will cut its key interest rate to three per cent from 3.5 per cent Thursday in action to brake the slide of the dollar on the foreign exchanges.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, have access to thinking in the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, which holds a policy meeting Thursday under pressure for an interest rate cut both at home and from the United States.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition faces election on Sunday. Share prices have dropped in Frankfurt on fears that the present appreciation of the West German mark against the dollar will hit German exports by making them more expensive.

The United States has repeatedly urged both West Germany and Japan to shave interest rates in the hope that that would stimulate expansion in their economies, creating new markets for goods and helping to alleviate the huge U.S. trade deficit.

The deficit, estimated at \$170 billion for 1986, has weighed down the dollar in recent weeks against the yen and the mark, reflecting the hefty trade surpluses being run by Japan and West Germany.

Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will meet U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in Washington on Thursday to discuss the situation, amid fears the strong yen could cause a recession in Japan.

He might offer a new Japanese interest rate cut as the price of U.S. help in stabilising the dollar. Speculation on those lines, and about imminent interest rate cuts in both West Germany and Japan, which would have the immediate effect of making the mark and yen less attractive to investors, caused currency dealers to buy dollars Wednesday.

By midday in Europe the dollar had risen to around 1.85 marks and 154 yen, from lower earlier this week around 1.80 marks and just under 150 yen.

The Bundesbank had no comment on the speculation about a German interest rate cut. It has been afraid that, if it makes the cost of borrowing cheaper, German money supply might grow too fast and revive inflation — now around zero.

But the pressure for a cut is now acute because of the damage threatened to German exporters by the strong mark.

The sources said the imminent cut in the discount rate would be accompanied by a trimming of the central bank's rediscount quota, a measure to curb money supply.

The Bundesbank last cut the discount rate, also by a half point, on March 6 last year.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl will chair the council meeting Thursday which will be attended by Finance Minister Herhard Stoltenberg.

Meanwhile, the New York Times said in Wednesday's edition that a U.S. bid to halt the dollar's decline was seen as possible.

It said a senior administration official raised the possibility that the United States would try to arrest the decline of the dollar if it goes on much further.

"Maybe it's realistic to think you might see us cooperate with them," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

The newspaper said a White House official, also speaking anonymously, implied the dollar would have to fall a little more before the administration tried to support it. "There is a point" at which the administration would act, the official was quoted as saying. "But I don't know where that point is. We'll be very patient here for a while."

The newspaper quoted the administration official as saying support for the dollar could be seen as consistent with the agreement signed last fall between Mr. Baker and Mr. Miyazawa.

The administration's hands-off stance in recent days as the dollar plunged has prompted scepticism about how seriously the agreement was being honoured.

The agreement reached in San Francisco in September said the U.S. and Japan considered the yen-dollar exchange then "broadly consistent with the present underlying fundamentals."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two million Bangladeshis lose their jobs

DHAKA (R) — The centuries-old rice-husking tools known as dhakis are being replaced with modern equipment in Bangladesh and nearly two million women have lost their jobs because of the change, a World Bank report has said. It said the women fell victims to technology as many rice mills replaced the traditional foot-operated pestle-and-mortar devices with electrical machines. Up to 140,000 women may lose jobs annually as more mills switch over to low-cost, high-production machines, the report, published Wednesday in the New Nation newspaper, said. The dhaki operators mostly come from landless rural families and constitute half of Bangladesh's total female workforce, the report said.

Nigeria prolongs economic emergency

LAGOS (R) — A 15-month economic emergency declared by Nigeria's military government in 1985 has been extended for two years, an official gazette said. The emergency, decreed shortly after President Ibrahim Babangida took power had been due to end last month but will now last to Dec. 31, 1988. Economic planning ministry officials said the extension aimed at maintaining austerity measures, such as foreign exchange auctions and removal of fuel subsidies, which were introduced last year to turn round an economy hit by sharply lower prices for crude oil exports.

N. Yemen buys Australian wheat

SANAA (R) — Australia will provide North Yemen with 400,000 tonnes of wheat in 1987 under an agreement signed this week, officials said. They said the amount, which could be raised to 600,000 tonnes, would be supplied with three-year credit facilities. The agreement included Australian technical help with silos.

Aden refinery to process more oil for Kuwait

ADEN (R) — Aden refinery will process 20,000 barrels per day (b/d) of Kuwaiti crude under a new agreement between South Yemen and the Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC), officials said Wednesday.

They gave no other details of the accord, signed here Tuesday, but it is believed it is renewable annually.

Aden refinery currently processes about half a million tonnes a year (10,000 b/d) of Kuwaiti crude. South Yemen has recently contacted Kuwait to increase the amount of Kuwaiti crude processed at the refinery to about 1.5 million tonnes a year (30,000 b/d).

The refinery, which ran at less than 40 per cent of its 8.5 million tonnes capacity in 1985, has been further hit by the disruption over the past few months of Iranian shipments of some 50,000 b/d of crude.

South Yemen's Deputy Oil Minister Rashid Al Kass told Reuters this week that contacts had already begun with Tehran to resume operations, which he said could have been interrupted because of "Iranian export problems."

Fight for Australian media heats up

SYDNEY (R) — Two new bids for Australian media groups have raised the stakes in a takeover bonanza involving some of the country's wealthiest tycoons.

An offer announced Wednesday by John Fairfax Ltd for the Herald and Weekly Times (HWT) has thrown the newspaper group's future wide open, after publisher Rupert Murdoch had looked set to win control of it.

Fairfax offered 2.5 billion dollars (\$1.63 billion) for HWT, five days after Mr. Murdoch persuaded the only other bidder tycoon Robert Holmes A. Court, to withdraw.

Another media takeover bid was launched Tuesday by Perth entrepreneur Alan Bond, who moved to seize control of Australia's largest television network.

Mr. Bond announced a billion dollar (\$650 million) deal for the broadcasting empire of Mr. Kerry Packer, which the local press described as "a lightning coup."

Mr. Packer, who commercialised cricket in the 1970's, admitted he was caught off balance by Mr. Bond's offer for his family inheritance, the Consolidated Press Holdings Group.

But he accepted the bid, which will give Mr. Bond control of some 25 companies with media interests in Australia, Britain, the United States and South Africa.

Mr. Bond, who last week clinched a 24 per cent stake in

Hong Kong's major television network, H.K.-TVB, will win a substantial share in Britain's T.V.-A.M. television station.

In a radio interview Wednesday, he said he would use his Australian television empire as a medium for forays in other parts of the world.

Market analysts said Mr. Bond, who owns vast mining, brewing and property interests, should meet few problems in completing his deal with Mr. Packer.

Mr. Murdoch is not so lucky. Apart from the challenge by Fairfax, he faces opposition from journalist, labour and community organisations concerned at the editorial power victory would give him.

HWT and News Corporation, which he already owns, between them control at least 75 per cent of Australia's newspapers. Mr. Murdoch's overseas interests, which include the London Times, make him the world's most powerful press baron.

Fairfax said in a statement it was seeking a court order to prevent a transfer of HWT shares to News Corporation.

After Mr. Murdoch bought off Mr. Holmes A. Court, HWT said it would accept Mr. Murdoch's offer of 2.3 billion dollars (\$1.4 billion) unless a new bidder appeared.

Market analysts said that whatever the outcome, the Australian media were set for the biggest shakeup in their history. Many small media groups are



Rupert Murdoch interested in expanding their holdings and are just biding their time, they said.

Despite the controversy stirred by the takeover bids, Labour Prime Minister Bob Hawke has said the government will not interfere.

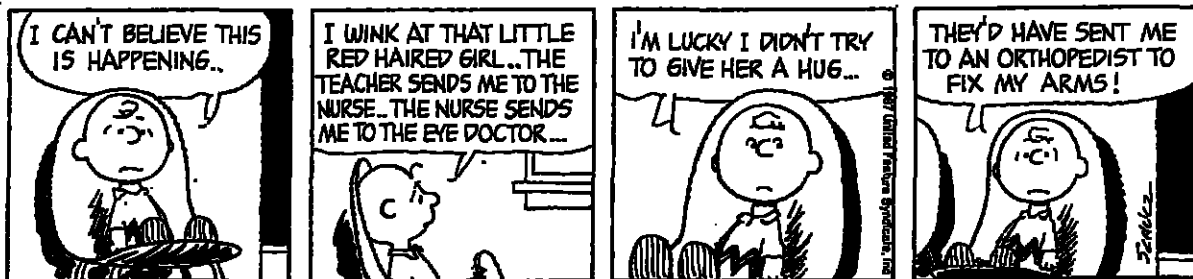
The upheaval in the newspaper and broadcasting sector follows a government decision in November to loosen controls on media ownership.

The new rules, which are yet to become law, will lift a ban on television operators owning more than two stations each.

But restrictions will be imposed on cross-ownership of newspapers and broadcasting networks.

Mr. Murdoch, born in Australia but now an American citizen, also has to deal with a law restricting foreign ownership of media interests. His bid for HWT is being looked at by the Australian broadcasting tribunal.

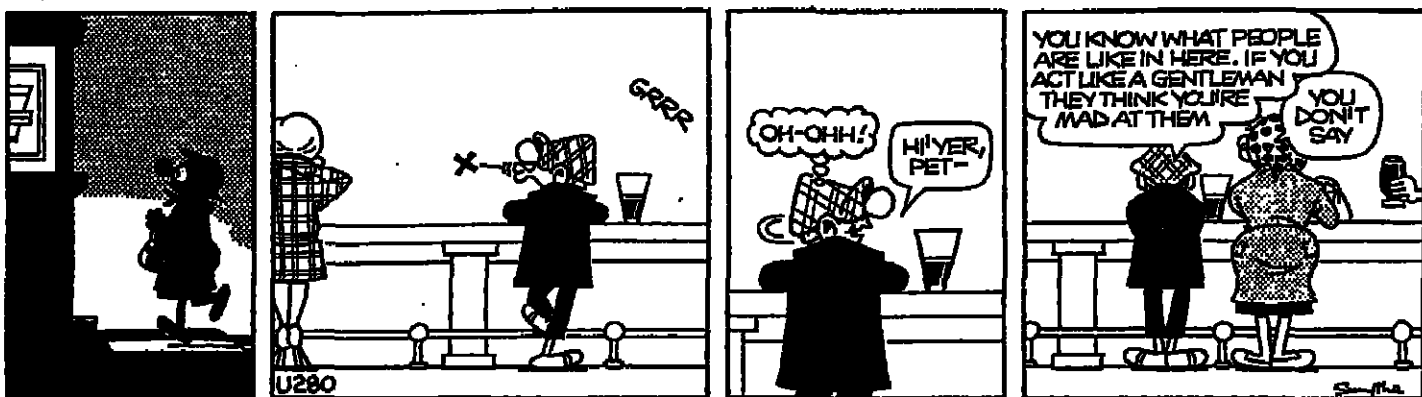
Peanuts



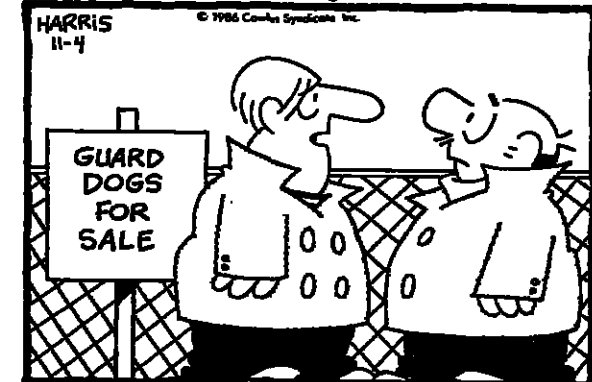
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

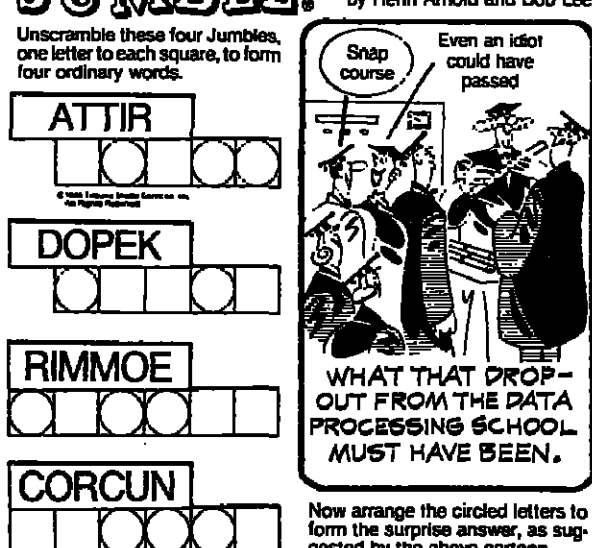


THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"For \$500 I'll sell you a Doberman. For \$100 I'll sell you a Chihuahua with a microphone."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Yesterday's Jumbles: TULLE QUASH GUIDED PUDDLE
Answer: What happened after he bought a new pair of suspenders? — HE WAS HELD UP

12 people gunned down in S. African township

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Twelve people, including seven children, were shot dead by unknown gunmen early Wednesday in the black South African township of Kwamakhuta, the government's Bureau for Information said.

A bureau spokesman said two people were injured in the attack. Police had launched a massive hunt for the killers.

He said an unknown number of gunmen opened fire on the house of Willie Ntuli in the township, close to the Indian Ocean resort of Amanzimtoti. Spent bullets from an AK-47 automatic rifle were found strewn around the house.

The spokesman said the Soviet-made automatic weapons used in the attack suggested that African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas could have been responsible. The ANC is the main guerrilla group fighting white domination in South Africa.

The bureau spokesman said he did not know Ntuli's identity or why he should have been attacked.

The South African Press Association said the attackers first

threw a petrol bomb and opened fire when the occupants fled the blazing house.

The news agency said the seven children killed were between three and five years old.

Townships in the Durban area have been torn by divisions between black factions.

Groups affiliated to the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF) have fought fierce vendettas with members of the conservative million-strong Zulu cultural group Inkatha.

A member of the legislative assembly of the KwaZulu tribal homeland, B.M. Dlamini, died earlier this month after his Kwamakhuta home was petrol-bombed.

Blacks who join tribal homeland structures set up by Pretoria are regarded as

collaborators by black radicals.

In its daily report on political violence which has claimed more than 2,300 lives in South Africa since early 1984, the Bureau for Information said a black man suffered burns after his home was set on fire in Johannesburg's Soweto township.

Independent verification of the bureau's reports is difficult because of tough media restrictions imposed under a seven-month-old national state of emergency.

Meanwhile in Delmas, lawyers opened their defence Wednesday of 19 anti-apartheid leaders charged in an 18-month-old treason trial with conspiring to overthrow the government.

The prosecution closed its case in November, saying the United Democratic Front was an internal arm of the outlawed African National Congress.

The Front has repeatedly denied any connection with the ANC, saying it rejects the use of violence although it shares the ANC's goal of replacing the white-dominated government with a non-racial system.

Blacks who join tribal homeland structures set up by Pretoria are regarded as

Aquino continues campaign for 'yes' vote

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino on Wednesday urged a resounding "Yes" vote for the new constitution to save democracy from what she called a "godless ideology."

But a Communist official claimed the government is using the unratified charter to "close the door" on rebel demands.

Meanwhile, Soviet Ambassador Vadim Shabalin denied reports that Moscow was aiding the rebels. He told a news conference that reports to the contrary, which have appeared in conservative newspapers, "are sheer lies."

The 53-year-old president made the appeal for the constitution in a speech broadcast Wednesday by government television. The nation will vote on the charter on Feb. 2.

"I say your vote is all-important because a massive turnout on Feb. 2 will dramatically prove that you care," Mrs. Aquino said. "I say the survival of our democracy will depend on your voting Yes for the new constitution."

She said the new charter, which guarantees her a six-year term, reaffirms the Filipino belief in God and the spiritual values of the Filipino race against the Godless ideology that others would seek to impose.

Mrs. Aquino was clearly referring to Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) rebels, who began peace negotiations with her government this month. But talks have produced no substantial progress toward ending the 18-year-old rebellion. The ceasefire expires in less than three weeks.

Mrs. Aquino has made peace with the rebels the cornerstone of her policy.

At a news conference Wednesday, the front's chairman for central Luzon, Manuel Quinsac, charged that the military was continuing to harass rebel units in violation of the truce.

The government has closed the door on the NDF agenda and has tied substantial talks to a constitution that is still to be ratified, Mrs. Quinsac said. "If these two major obstacles are not solved, we strongly propose the NDF get out of the talks."

Meanwhile in a separate development, a soldier and a guide were shot and wounded in an ambush Wednesday as they neared a house owned by a man alleged to have planned the kidnapping of Japanese businessman Nobuyuki Wakaoji two months ago, military sources said.

Chinese minister warns writers to toe the line

PEKING (R) — Culture Minister Wang Meng warned writers to toe the line as China's campaign against pro-Western ideas extended into the cultural sphere in the wake of the resignation of Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang.

There were also continuing signs Wednesday that the party's Propaganda Department, which has ultimate responsibility for cultural matters, was undergoing a major shake-up.

The People's Daily Wednesday quoted a speech by Mr. Wang strongly supporting the present campaign against "bourgeois liberalism," sparked by nationwide demonstrations last month by students calling for more democracy and freedom.

"Bourgeois liberalism" is a phrase used to denounce ideas inspired by Western-style democracy such as multi-party systems and freedom of speech.

"Efforts must be made to oppose, criticize and clear away literary works praising bourgeois liberalisation and of inferior level, vulgar taste and decadent nature," Mr. Wang told a meeting of cultural officials Tuesday.

The pro-Peking Hong Kong newspaper Wen Wei Po reported Wednesday that the bureau in

charge of arts and literature in the party's Propaganda Department had a new boss, Meng Weizai.

The Propaganda Department's Chief Zhu Houze, who is said to have been close to now-disgraced party chief Hu, has not been seen in public for some time and is rumoured to have been sacked as a result of the student protests.

An official in the party Liaison Department, asked about Mr. Zhu's status Wednesday, told Reuters: "It is not clear. It is not our concern."

Western diplomats said they were surprised at the hard-line tone of the speech by the culture minister, given his reputation for having relatively liberal views.

"Wang is himself a writer who was attacked and purged in 1957 for speaking out, so it is strange that he should be throwing his weight behind the new campaign so quickly and so forcefully," said one diplomat.

"It could mean Wang has sold out, but I think it is more likely he believes that in the present climate there is no point fighting the trend."

Mr. Wang was widely reported to be reluctant to take on the job of culture minister and to have agreed only after the personal intervention of Mr. Hu.

New Korean aide pledges to respect human rights

SEOUL (R) — Newly-appointed Interior Minister Chung Ho-Yong Wednesday pledged South Korean police would respect human rights following the death of a student detainee under torture.

Mr. Chung, a military school classmate of President Chun Doo Hwan, told reporters: "There should never be further cases of torture or human rights abuses in our society."

Mr. Chung has acted quickly to defuse a smouldering political crisis over the death last Wednesday of 21-year-old Park Chong-Chol while under police interrogation.

He issued an unprecedented public apology Tuesday and fired Interior Minister Kim Chong-Hoh and the national police chief.

Wednesday Mr. Chung ordered his cabinet to set up a special body to "prevent the repetition of this torture incident and protect the people's human rights," a presidential spokesman said.

"The body should be composed of leaders from various social sectors and study measures to

protect human rights," the spokesman quoted Mr. Chung as saying.

Disgraced National Police Chief Kang Min-Chang revealed on Monday that two officers of a special police unit tried to make Park confess to anti-government activities by plunging his head into a bath of water.

The young man suffocated when his throat was crushed against the bathtub rim, Kang said.

Mr. Chung, who not only becomes political head of the country's 100,000 police but also the official responsible for organising general elections expected later this year, said he would try hard to raise police morale "severely hurt by the Park affair."

He also said that despite the incident, the government would be tough with any attempts by pro-Communist elements to disrupt social stability.

News of Park's death aroused popular outrage, with opposition politicians and dissidents claiming it was "just the tip of the iceberg."

Ugandan army kills 350 rebels in battle

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan government troops killed 350 northern rebels on Sunday in the fiercest engagement since the rebels began attacking the government's National Resistance Army (NRA) last August, NRA commanders said.

More than 6,000 soldiers took part in the six-hour battle at

Comer Kilak, a road junction 270 kilometres north of Kampala, the commanders told reporters at the scene Tuesday.

The NRA lost 38 men killed and 116 wounded while the rebel dead included Lt. Col. Eric Odwar, commander of the Ugandan Army's Central Brigade in 1985 and one of the rebels'

most experienced officers, they added.

Many of the rebels are former members of the disbanded Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA), the national army under deposed President Milton Obote and the military junta which replaced him in June 1985.

Helms ousts Luger as minority leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — Archconservative Senator Jesse Helms has ousted moderate Senator Richard Lugar as the leader of the Republican minority on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Sen. Lugar, who was chairman of the committee for the past two years until the Democrats gained control of the Senate in the last

elections, was a key figure in American support for Philippines President Corason Aquino and in passage of U.S. sanctions against South Africa. He made a practice of seeking compromise between Congress and the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Sen. Helms has opposed the sanctions and frequently has been a supporter of right-wing

governments abroad, often taking a foreign-policy position to the right of Mr. Reagan.

The vote that seated Sen. Helms was taken by the Senate Republican conference and he announced the results 24 to 17.

Sen. Helms told reporters that his victory represented a triumph for the Senate's traditional seniority system.

Contadora group ends C. American tour

MEXICO CITY (R) — A high-level Latin American diplomatic mission has completed a two-day peace tour of Central America but has given no hint of specific progress in efforts to bring the regional nations together in peace talks.

Speaking on behalf of the mission on its arrival here Tuesday night, Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda said the peace group was now seeking "common denominators" in the various countries' positions.

He said all five leaders in the countries the mission visited —

Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador — had expressed "grave preoccupations" over increasing tension in the region.

But he said the key differences that have so far prevented a peace dialogue still remained.

The delegates include U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Organisation of American States Chief Joao Baena Soares, the four foreign ministers of the Contadora peace-keeping group and their counterparts from the four-nation Latin American "support group."

They are finishing the tour with meetings here to study the results of the whirlwind tour around the troubled region.

But Mr. Sepulveda's cautious comments indicated the peace process had moved little since last summer when efforts to push through a regional peace treaty collapsed.

Delegates said privately that Tuesday's meetings in Honduras and El Salvador were "really tough," hinting that the two U.S. allies were as harsh as ever in criticising Nicaragua's leftist government.

Ecuadorian congress debates call on president to resign

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Supporters of President Leon Febres Cordero clashed with anti-government demonstrators outside the congress as legislators discussed a resolution calling on the strong-willed chief executive to resign.

Police said several gunshots were fired during the disturbance. One woman was hit by gunfire, but was not seriously injured, police said.

Lawmakers began voting Tuesday night on the resolution urging the president to step down, but the session was suspended for the night before the vote was completed.

The turmoil in the capital began Friday when Mr. Febres Cordero was kidnapped and held hostage for about 11 hours.

Mr. Febres Cordero and about 25 other captives were released after he agreed to grant amnesty to retired Air Force Gen. Frank Vargas Paez, imprisoned for

instigating a rebellion against the government last March.

Mr. Febres Cordero's opponents contend that he long has abused his powers and some say that led to the kidnapping at an air base.

A coalition of opposition lawmakers introduced a resolution Tuesday night that condemned the kidnapping, but called on the president to resign.

The motion said Mr. Febres Cordero should be held responsible for the kidnapping. The legislators were called into the special session to debate whether Mr. Febres Cordero should be impeached. But congressmen said later the only action that would be taken would be a vote on the resolution asking him to step down.

"Our objective is not to destabilise the system," said Andres Vallejo, president of the congress and a member of the opposition Social Democrats.

12 workers contaminated at British nuclear plant

LONDON (AP) — Twelve workers were contaminated by a radioactive leak at the world's largest nuclear reprocessing plant on England's north west coast British Nuclear Fuels PLC. announced Tuesday.

The state-owned company said the accident happened on Monday at the Sellafield plant and the workers were undergoing "further biological checks" to determine if they had breathed in any uranium and plutonium particles.

Sellafield was criticised by government inspectors last month for its aging buildings, corroded equipment and a management bogged down in paper work.

British nuclear fuels said a "small amount of radioactive material" was detected during

removal of a pressure gauge in an area making fuel elements where 19 men were working.

Twelve men were found to have been "exposed to radiation levels in excess of normal working limits," while the other seven were cleared, the company said.

The area where the radiation was found "has now been cleaned and production has been resumed," the company said.

Sellafield is the West's oldest commercial atomic power station and the largest plant reprocessing British and other countries' used nuclear fuels to extract useful uranium and plutonium.

There have been over 300 accidents there since it opened in 1950 under the name Windscale.

Shuttle expected to be ready for February flight

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. space agency still expects to resume space shuttle flights in February 1988, agency officials have said.

Admiral Richard Truly, the agency's space flight director, told reporters NASA is developing a mechanism that would allow the crew to escape in emergencies, but officials admit it would not have helped in the Challenger disaster a year ago.

"We still believe that February, 1988 is an attainable schedule," Adm. Truly said, although the outcome of full-scale firing tests on the shuttle's rocket motors this summer could change the outlook.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has already delayed by several months the scheduled resumption of shuttle flights following the loss of the Challenger shuttle last Jan. 28 in the worst accident in the history of manned spaceflight.

The escape system would include individual parachutes and explosives around the side hatch door. In an emergency, a crew

member could blow out the door and the astronauts could parachute to earth.

"We could get a crew of seven or eight out in the time it would take for the shuttle to drop from 20,000 feet (6,4 km) to 10,000 feet (3,2 km)," Adm. Truly said.

Such a system would not have saved the seven crew members who died in the Challenger explosion.

It occurred shortly after lift-off when a joint between segments of the right-side booster rocket failed. Shuttle crews are helpless until the spacecraft reaches the upper atmosphere and jettisons its booster rocket engines.

NASA had long ruled out crew escape systems on grounds of cost, weight, utility, limited usefulness or technical infeasibility. But such a system was recommended in the final report of a presidential commission that investigated the Challenger accident.

Adm. Truly said NASA did not have a timetable for installing the hatch door jettisoning mechanism.

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Venezuelan envoy robbed in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Venezuelan ambassador to Israel, Nestor Coll Blasini, was robbed at gunpoint at his official residence in Herzliya, a police spokeswoman said Wednesday. "A masked, pistol-wielding robber climbed a ladder into the ambassador's residence Tuesday night and demanded money from the ambassador. He got away with \$1,000," Nili Bram said in a telephone interview. During the hold-up, a guard from a private security company, alerted by the alarm system, arrived at the house and was also threatened by the gunman.

Royal Navy told to sink auto

LONDON (AP) — The Royal Navy was ordered Tuesday to intercept and sink an automobile off the Isle of Man. The white Ford Cortina, mounted on four floats for use as a missile range target, broke from its moorings in bad weather. A navy spokesman said it had drifted northward more than 160 kilometres from south Wales to the Irish Sea and the minesweeper HMS Bronington was told to sink it as a hazard to shipping.

Leonardo's Last Supper closed to public

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Hoping to spare the masterpiece from further damage, authorities have decided to close Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper to the public while its restoration continues. Rosalba Tardito, superintendent for artistic works of the Lombardy region, told the Associated Press that the refectory of Santa Maria Delle Grazie Church soon will be closed to the public and the closure "will not be short." The public has been able to watch restorers work on the mural in the church refectory, where Leonardo finished the painting in 1497.

Italian court grants paternity leave

ROME (R) — Italy's constitutional court has ruled that men can take "paternity leave" from their jobs in certain cases after the birth of their child. The court ruled that men are to be allowed three months leave at 80 percent of salary to look after the baby if the mother was seriously ill or unable to care for it herself. The court also ruled that men could take up to six months unpaid leave after the initial three months.

Pilots begin to circle globe via poles

PARIS (AP) — Two pilots took off Wednesday in an attempt to fly a single-engine propeller plane around the world via both the North and South Poles for the first time. Officials at Le Bourget Airport north of Paris said Calin Rosetti, 55, and Richard Norou, 49, started their trip at 12:12 p.m. (1112 GMT) in a Piper Malibu, and expected to return to Paris on Feb. 7. The pilots planned to make 14 stops on their 26,444-mile (42,556-km) expedition, which they call Arctic Tem.

Convict deserts bride in bid for freedom

LONDON (R) — A long-term prisoner left his childhood sweetheart in tears and smashed his way to freedom when let out of prison for the day to get married. British police have said. Michael Turner, 29, serving 12 years for robbery and shotgun offences, escaped when six men dressed in balaclava helmets and wielding crowbars attacked the taxi taking him to a South London register office. The men smashed the windshield of the car, ordered the prison officer handcuffed to the "groom" to release him and then made their escape despite the presence of plainclothes policemen positioned around the building.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkenson

VARIEGATED

By James E. Hinkle, Jr.

ACROSS

- 1 Spores
- 2 Cattle
- 3 Mountain peaks
- 4 Intimidation
- 5 Musical format
- 6 Salsa rhythm
- 7 Blackberry
- 8 Director Kazan
- 9 Tree used in field work
- 10 Deep thought
- 11 Freshness
- 12 — Latin
- 13 Cowardly
- 14 Solitaire
- 15 Son of Isael
- 16 Prisoner's item
- 17 Cereals
- 18 Dec
- 19 Hawaiian

DOWN

- 1 Gr. weights
- 2 Shrimp — a show again
- 3 Pistol weapon
- 4 — Sp. queen
- 5 Round pin
- 6 Adm.'s
- 7 Year Sp.
- 8 Ch. boundary
- 9 Shaving
- 10 "TV" "dream"
- 11 Upriser
- 12 Comp. pt.
- 13 Made a mess by leading
- 14 Salad dressing
- 15 Andean
- 16 Voice notes
- 17 Dictionary section

DIAGRAMS

17 X 17, by Roger Cochrane

ACROSS

- 1 Mosaic of eyes
- 2 Merganser
- 3 Memes
- 4 "Ten long, —, —, —"
- 5 Inevitable
- 6 Old garden
- 7 Ring
- 8 Division word
- 9 Miffy
- 10 Coaster

DOWN

- 1 Invitation
- 2 Plunder Fr.
- 3 Iron or Sn
- 4 Most land
- 5 Emerald
- 6 Gracie
- 7 Look for
- 8 Long for
- 9 Dime
- 10 Dime

ACROSS

- 35 Stately dance
- 36 Cattle
- 37 Mountain peaks
- 38 Silent screen
- 39 Musical format
- 40 Old-time
- 41 Blackberry
- 42 High, prev.
- 43 Freshness
- 44 Deep thought
- 45 Freshness
- 46 — Latin
- 47 Cowardly
- 48 Solitaire
- 49 Son of Isael
- 50 Prisoner's item
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